



Window on Jordan

What do people look for in newspapers Politics, horoscopes and pop videos

By Ilham Sadeq
Star Staff Writer
READING A book or a newspaper on a long jour-
ney is an enjoyable task that kills time, provides
spiritual nutrition and expands people's awareness
and knowledge.
However, the interest in reading or even going
through a book or a newspaper has been declining.
Indeed, this is attributed to the enormous pressures
of everyday living.
People can be judged by the kind of books or

newspapers they read or the subject matter that
attract their attention.
Most people in Jordan are highly educated, but if
you ask them what kind of articles or books they
read, they almost look at you in horror and say "I
don't have time to read, you must be joking! I don't
have time to look at a newspaper even though I get it
at my house on a daily basis," a taxi driver said.
"I get up early every morning and leave the house,
and I don't come back before 10 in the evening. I
leave while my kids are asleep and arrive back while

they've gone to bed," Abu Ali said.
Amusingly, he added that the newspaper is mainly
used for eating on. "I sometimes pick up a news
item by chance, whilst I am having my dinner."
Today, things have become a lot more compli-
cated. A person must work, work, and work to
secure a decent life for his children. Bearing this in
mind, Abu Ali has to collect as much fares as possi-
ble to be able to pay for the petrol, the taxi owner of

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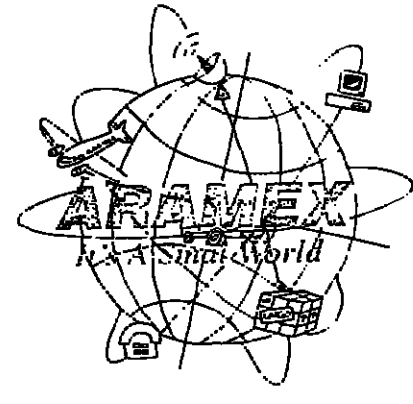


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Fortunes of Aqaba

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Flowers through the lens

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Medpartenariat Jordan 1997

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Peace brings profits to Somali trade center

By Ann M. Simmons
Star Staff Writer
BOSSASO, Somalia—
Mohammed Awil
Mohammed watches with
satisfaction as four
women crouch on the
sandy ground outside his
shop in the dusty heat of
the dawn here, pulling the
husk from frankincense
with their fingers and
teeth. Each worker, her
lips ringed with white
powder from her labors,
will clean and sort at least
35 pounds of the clumps
of aromatic gum before
her day ends at 11 pm.
The effort pleases
Mohammed, 25, a Bos-
saso entrepreneur, for he
is on target to reach his
weekly quota to export
220 to 440 pounds of
frankincense, a fragrant
resin commonly burned in
ceremonial practices. This
will mean as much as
\$2,400 cash in his pocket.
Before the collapse of
Somalia's national gov-
ernment seven years ago
and the ensuing civil war
that has ravaged much of
the country since, almost
all of Mohammed's frank-
incense and the profits it
generated would have
gone to the local authori-
ties of this semiarid, sand-
swept port city.
But things have changed.
"Life in the city is differ-
ent," said Mohammed,
who now exports his
product, which costs
about \$6 a pound, to
Saudi Arabia and Dubai,
one of the United Arab
Emirates. "I'm a private
businessman now. When
the government was here,
we couldn't even go to
the port."

Mohammed, who also
manages a thriving trade
shipping shark fins to
Hong Kong, is just one of
scores of businesspeople
who are capitalizing on
the peace and stability of
Bossaso, the de facto cap-
ital of northeastern
Somalia. Near the tip of
the Horn of Africa, about
700 miles northeast of the
shattered Somali capital,
Mogadishu, Bossaso has
become a refuge from the
anarchy sweeping this
nation.
While most of Somalia
has become an object of
international despair and
even disgust because its
seemingly unceasing eth-
nic warfare and
unchecked violence have
left it with no functioning
central government and in
the haphazard control of
numerous armed factions,
here in Bossaso there is
no comparable inter-clan

Islamists choose hard option Boycott elections, leave opposition in doldrums

By Raed Al Abed
Star Staff Writer
ENDING CONTRADICTO-
RY speculations on its real at-
titude towards the next elec-
tions, the Muslim
Brotherhood took a historic
decision to boycott the race.
This decision will almost
likely create a rift in the 40-
year-old relationship with the
regime.
This decision was taken
early Wednesday morning, af-
ter more than a seven-hour
meeting by the movement's
highest body, the Shura
Council.
During the meeting, the
pragmatists failed to convince
the Shura Council of the need
to participate through its po-
litical arm, the Islamic Action
Front (IAF). But the hardlin-
ers' reasons to boycott, seems
to be stronger than the logic
of political maneuvers.
Twenty members of the 30-
persons Shura Council attend-
ed the meeting, and eight be-
ing abroad.
Ten members stated their
opposition to run for the elec-
tions and include: Mo-
hammed Abu Fares, Hamman
Sa'id, Dawoud Kojak, Ahmed
Al Kofhi, Saud Abu Mah-
fouz, Hattim Abul Ragheb,
Kandeel Shaker, Salem Al
Falahah, Jamil Abu Baker and
Emad Abu Dayah.
Those in favour of running
were: Abdel Majeed Thuneibat,
(Overseer of the Muslim
Brotherhood), Ishaq Al Fa-
rhan (IAF general secretary),
Abdul Rahim Al Okour, Mo-
hammed Al Haj, Abdullah Al
Khabbas, and Theib Anees.
"It was a hard option," Ab-



Islamists give their backs to the next parliament

del Majeed Thuneibat, told
The Star. "We took it as a re-
sult of the accumulation of
many reasons, which we hope
the government will take into
consideration."
According to Muslim
Brotherhood sources, the Shu-
ra Council's decision to boy-
cott came after a strong de-
mand from the majority of
members in the movement.
The sources added that in a
fresh survey conducted early
this month, more than 270
members out of about 500

participants, supported the
boycott, while about 170
members wanted to partici-
pate but with conditions
which described as "impossi-
ble." These included demand-
ing the government to repeal
several legislation including
the Jordanian-Israeli Peace
Treaty Law. The same survey
showed that only a slight mi-
nority supported participation
in the elections.
However, observers believe
that the historic decision of
the movement, is a tactical

one and comes as a result of a
long marathon of tension be-
tween the government and the
Islamic movement.
"The decision is tactical
and not a strategic one,
which is smart," said Dr Lu-
beeb Kumbawi, a political
commentator. "It reflects the
basic fact that the democratic
perimeters in Jordan are
working at the time" and
shows that the electoral law

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New Christian party creates much anguish

By Marwan Asmar
Star Staff Writer
POLITICS IS a strange old
thing. Cynics say it is there to
be manipulated, others point out
that politics is the art of the pos-
sible and impossible, to reach
power, draw up policies and
make sure that they are translat-
ed into practice.
It is with this in mind that the
new Christian Arab Democratic
Party (CADP) has been created.
It's formation in the light of the
November election is under-
standable. What is not however,
is its social make up.
Despite its Christian title,
about half of its 100 founding
members are Muslims and its
membership is likely to in-
crease, party officials are say-
ing.
But such utterings are arous-
ing much suspicion. Why the
formation of this party, what
will it gain. What is it that they
are really after? Is it just togeth-
erness and mutual understand-
ing?
If this is the case, then it is
argued that Muslims and Chris-
tians in this country already live
in harmony. There is no ethnic
strife as there is in other coun-
tries.
While it can't be said that the
Muslim Brotherhood and its po-
litical arm, the Islamic Action
Front are angry, they neverthe-
less, see no real aim in the for-
mation of the new party.
After all, there is the Arab Is-
lamic Democratic Movement
"Dua'a", whose central commit-
tee includes a fair number of
Christians, but it hadn't attract-
ed much popular support de-
spite its specific call for Chris-
tians to enter the party. The
Dua'a movement however, con-
siders the establishment of a
Christian party as "a dangerous
step that threatens the society

and its security." In a statement
that was released earlier this
week, Dua'a warned against the
very idea of licensing such a
party.
However, the new party's
General Secretary Sami Jawdat
Swadi is adamant. He says that
there is room for another party
and he will make sure that it
will be officially licensed and if
not, he would be prepared to go
to the courts.
Much reaction, already from
Muslims and Christians, is be-
ing registered. These include
religious leaders, politicians, party
activists and lawyers.
Islamic politicians are already
rejecting the party, Islamic Ac-
tion Front (IAF) deputy Mo-
hammad Abu Fares has con-
demned the party in the
strongest terms.
He, like IAF parliamentary
spokesman, Dr Hamzah Man-
sour, wonders in amazement
how a Christian party could in-
clude Muslim members. He
says that first of all the Christian
religion has different views and
ideas. He argues that "any Mus-
lim who becomes a member of
this Christian party is guilty of
heresy."
However, the tone of Man-
sour is much more mellow. He
doubts whether Muslims are
joining this party. He says he
does not believe that a Muslim
would be prepared to "forgo his
Islamic identity."
In a pragmatic approach,
something that characterized the
Lower House deputy in recent
years, he says that if the goals of
this party coincides with the
Arab Islamic identity of Jordan,
"then there would be no prob-
lem but the IAF would have
something else to say, if the new
party is found to develop an iso-
lationist, sectarian perspective."
But the CADP is now in-
volved in a full frontal attack.
The party's Deputy General
Secretary, Tayseer Boshah, a
Muslim, who heads the "organi-
zing unit" is equally blunt.
In a reply published in AD Du-
tour daily, Boshah says "we are
not a missionary party, nor are
we linked to any church," won-
dering "why the Muslim Broth-
erhood never protested against
the licensing of the Communist
Party despite the fact that it
does not believe in our religion
or even in God."

Some Islamists are already
stamping Boshah as a heretic by
surrendering his Islamic iden-
tity, and joining the Christian party.
Boshah however, looks at it
differently. He says the concept
of the party is political and not
missionary as some like to un-
derstand it.
Despite its Christian name,
the party does not appear to
have an ideological view, but a
political one. It, for instance,
believes in the creation of a united
kingdom between Jordan and
Palestine. In this respect too, the
party believes in the peace pro-
cess and in reaching a political
settlement based on the return of
territories that were taken by Is-
rael after the 1967 war.
But this is exactly the prob-
lem. It is argued that since the
party is not religious, it should
not have the word "Christian"
in its title.
Roman Catholic Bishop Sa-
lim Al Sayigh says that what
worries him is that "the party
appears to be using a religious
title for its own political ends."
He adds that "this is something
that is to be categorically reject-
ed." The patriarch says that the
party must change its name.
In a press conference held on
Wednesday, Church leaders and
prominent Jordanian Christian
personalities condemned the
idea of forming the CADP and
called on the government not to
give it a license.
Lawyers and intellectuals,
from both Muslim and Christian
backgrounds, are also joining
the fray. They are saying that
they would be prepared to go to
the courts, if party officials go
ahead with the name.
They say that the word Chris-
tian in the party is not accepta-
ble because it implies that all
Christians in the country are
members of the party or support
it.
Christian leaders are saying
that this is something that goes
against the national interests
and could create divisions in so-
ciety. The Christian patriarch is
calling on all Christians and
Muslims to boycott the new
party.
The debate around the party
will likely to go on for some-
time. What is particularly in-
triguing is the idea of having Mus-
lims in a Christian Party. And in
this respect too, the ideological
pedestal will surely create much
controversy among Muslim and
Christian theologians. ■

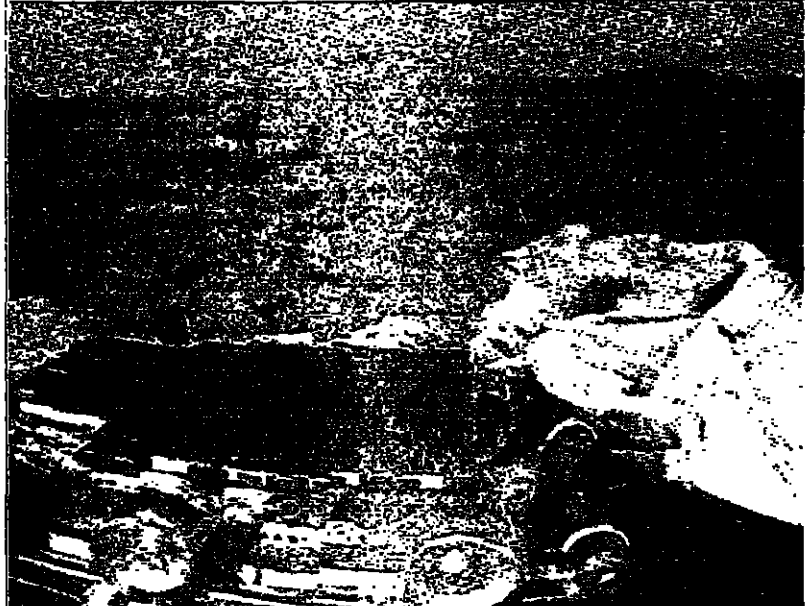
Rover gets boulder, rolls to rock

By K.C. Cole
PASADENA, California—
After triumphantly wobbling
down its ramp away from the
mother ship Pathfinder, the six-
wheeled geologist named
Sojourner headed for its first
scientific target last Sunday: a
bicolored, nubby rock named
"Barnacle Bill."
A brief, jerky film of the tod-
dler's
descent down
its runway
evoked whoop-
ing and weep-
ing and a sea of
raised fists
from almost a
100 Pathfinder
team members
at the Jet Pro-
pulsion Laboratory just before
midnight Saturday. The rover's
tire tracks left a clear imprint on
the floury, pink Martian soil.
Screams of "Cook! Cook!
Cookie!" filled the packed audi-
torium as mission manager
Robert Cook took the podium.
By Sunday morning, the Imager for Mars Pathfinder

camera had already taken a pan-
oramic image of its surround-
ings, allowing researchers to
zero in on interesting targets for
study. The IMP camera was
scheduled to work through the
night taking a 3-D color vista
called the "Monster Pan" that
will allow the scientists to wan-
der through the rocky Martian
terrain remotely with 3-D
goggles.
Looking around
their Pathfinder
landing site, sci-
entists saw rocks that
were rounded and
appeared to have
been transported
by water, and oth-
ers that were angu-
lar, probably
ejected by meteor impacts. Most
exciting, they found layered
bands in the distant hillsides,
indicating that the site, the Ares
Vallis, had been flooded cata-
strophically several times.
Scientists speculated that
layers were either terraces cut
by erosion or sedimentary
deposits. Both geological pro-

cesses clearly
signal the pres-
ence of water.
Project sci-
entist Matthew
Golombek said
that Mars may
still harbor
oceans of
water frozen
beneath its
surface or
captured on its
northern polar
cap.
Researchers
said they
would try to
find out the
composition of
the individual
layers and then
try to trace the
origins of the
layers back to
some of the
boulders in the foreground.
With the arrival of another
Mars spacecraft in September,
the National Aeronautics and
Space Administration's Mars
Global Surveyor, researchers

will get a much better idea of
the overall geology of the
planet. "It's going to take some
time to piece it all together,"
said Ron Greeley, a geologist
from the University of Arizona.
Meanwhile, geologists
started doing what any proud
new parents would do: naming
Continued on page 2



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What do people look for in newspapers Politics, horoscopes and pop videos

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the car and leaves a few dinars for his family. Of course he doesn't have time to read the newspaper or even bother to follow up on political or economic events.

To be fair, Jordanians do read, but the kind of subjects they look for is a different

story. The interest of the middle-aged is focused on political developments. "I do buy a newspaper. We are a part of the political system. We should have a role. It is true that we are not decision makers or are not even able to have our voice heard, but we must follow up what is going on," a teacher said.

Everyday, he looks at the newspaper in the morning, scanning the headlines for the most important political news. Then after a long day he looks at it again, reading it carefully while he drinks his favourite coffee. After political news, he reads sports and then goes for the last page searching for the lighter side of life.

A newly wed in her mid-twenties, Alaf Hassan said "I don't have time to read the paper, although it was a habit in the past. I am a lab technician, and by the end of the day I feel exhausted." However "I have to look at the horoscopes. You may laugh but I

need to look at the stars. I sometimes quarrel with my sister over who gets the paper first."

And she is not the only one. The fad today among teenagers is either to go straight to the sports pages or the horoscopes. They want to see their luck for the day. Most are not on good terms with politics and economics finding such vital issues as unnecessary or beyond their circle.

If true, then, indeed, this is disturbing. We are a "youthful society." More than 50 percent of the population is under 15 years of age. They happen to be the most enlightened, energetic and productive sector.

Reading is regarded by most of youth as "dull" or "boring." Today youngsters who engage in reading are regarded as "square." Teenagers like fun things that involve listening to the latest pop videos, Michael Jackson, Madonna, Ragheb Alama and the list goes on.

They do become interested in news only when it suits them, if there is a sensational story or crime, the Tawjhi exam results or



to see if there are summer tour programs. But teenagers do come down to earth, a little bit, as they grow older and shoulder greater responsibilities.

Those who are graduates will naturally buy the newspaper to look for job opportunities. "Before I got this job, I used to buy two newspapers every day to look for jobs. But now I don't have time to read one page, and I'm not interested in reading the paper. I prefer to go out with my friends and not waste my time reading," said an

engineer who was jobless for more than two years after graduation.

He is now choosy about the kind of stories he reads, and these are inevitably related to his career.

Whether it is to look for political or economic news, read the sports pages, stars or the ads, reading a newspaper has become an awesome task for Jordanians. We are an educated society, yes, but are we a reading nation?

Boycott elections, leave opposition in doldrums

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and the Press and Publications Law, "do not subscribe to true democracy."

Kamhawi added that "if all

political parties participate and the elections are conducted under a disadvantageous law with a government that is partial, then the opposition

would be condoning, playing the game and legitimizing the outcome of the elections which is quite wrong."

The government's response to the Shura Council's decision was cool. Minister of Interior, Nasseer Rashid, told AD Dussour daily that "We did not force them to boycott... they are free," adding that "we respect their decision and will hold elections despite the boycott."

Mr Thuneibat told The Star that there are several government regulations and legislations which the movement opposes, starting with the one-man-one vote, to the new press law.

Thuneibat earlier called for international observers to supervise the elections. He reiterated his stand "we are still worried that the coming elections will not be clean and free."

"The government will not be able to take a neutral stand in the coming elections," he added. During the 1993 parliamentary elections the Islamic movement accused the government Prime Minister Abdel Salam Al Majali of rigging the election.

Taking such a bold decision to boycott the elections, "indicates to everybody that the Muslim Brotherhood has little confidence in the law that governs these elections or of the government that is going to supervise the elections," Dr Kamhawi said.

The newly established right of center National Constitutional Party (NCP), which is a merger of nine centrist and



Thuneibat

rightist parties, was one of the reasons behind the Islamic boycott. The current prime minister is the architect of the NCP. The party is believed to be pro-government.

Mr Thuneibat accused the government of adopting the NCP by giving it a wide coverage whether in the media or by giving their officials posts in ministries.

"The government is adopting the constitutional party as if it is its party, and deals with the opposition parties as if they are illegal parties."

Supporters and opponents of the movement's decision to boycott the elections appear solid.

Islamic Lower House deputy Thibet Anees who supports participation believes that "the movement feels that boycotting the elections is important because it serves to delegitimize the position of the current policies and practices of the government." He added

that "in the current parliament the government has a solid majority. So we had no influence on the policy making."

However, Mr Anees, a moderate Islamist, played down possibilities of rifts within the movement. He said "the movement will remain united and will not be affected by one or two leaving its ranks."

However, rumors that Al Farhan threatened to quit the movement if the Shura Council votes to boycott have been quickly quashed. He assured "I am with the majority, and will adhere to the decision to boycott the coming elections."

"I think that the majority in the IAF is in favor of running for the elections and that the position of the movement is more puritan and doctrinaire than that of the party," said Dr Kamhawi. But he believes that there would be two possible scenarios. "We might witness either an uneasy acceptance of this decision or that some current IAF members of parliament might simply disobey or totally quit the movement."

"I hope nothing like that would happen because unity in the Islamic movement is important at this stage for the continued viability of the opposition," said Dr Kamhawi.

The rest of the opposition parties, especially members of the 11-party opposition alliance will hold meetings this week to discuss their stand towards the coming elections in the light of the Islamic boycott.

The secretary generals of these parties are now in Syria on a solidarity visit, but are expected to join the Islamic movement in its boycott.

Peace brings profits to Somalian trade center

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warfare under way.

Instead, this prospering haven is run by the Somali Salvation Democratic Front, a local political organization whose leaders say they are willing to reconcile with rival clans, including that of the late notorious Somali warlord, Gen. Mohammed Farah Aidid.

There has been little ethnic-based fighting in Bossaso; almost everyone here belongs to the Darood clan. Most disputes are settled the traditional way, by elders. Bossaso's first prison is only now going up on the outskirts of town.

"People here are coming to grips with reality and facing up to their problems more than any region in the country," said John Bierke, Somalia representative for the US Agency for International Development.

If the rest of Somalia followed suit, observers say, this troubled nation could eventually return to some semblance of normality.

But realistically, the chaos and societal disintegration that characterize much of Somalia indicate that peace, order and prosperity are unlikely to return any time soon.

Fighting, for example, continues to tear apart the southern port city of Kismayu.

Mogadishu has been relatively calm after last month's fragile cease-fire agreement between the main warlords there. Still, the airport in the capital remains closed, its port has stopped functioning and the city's water and sewage system is defunct.

The United Nations is conducting emergency operations only and no longer has expatriate staff permanently based in the capital, where one of the main factional leaders is California-educated Hussein Mohammed Aidid, son of Mohammed Farah Aidid.

But the dismal conditions elsewhere, in turn, made Bossaso's relative economic progress all the more significant to experts and observers in Bossaso.

"Commercially, it's booming," Dominik Langenbacher of the UN Development Program said of the city. "A few traditional trading families are making the fortune of their lives." They are taking advantage of Bossaso being one of the country's only two working ports.

Bossaso—whose population has swollen from 6,000 to 150,000 in the last seven years—could hardly be classified as

a thriving, cosmopolitan center in a Western sense. Most residents lack the basics. Potable water, electricity and indoor plumbing are still luxuries.

What many here do have, though, is marketable merchandise—and a relatively safe place to peddle it. Besides frankincense, which local officials say brings in about \$150 million a year, there is a healthy trade in lobster, the leafy stimulant khat and shark fins, which fetch up to \$30 a pound. Livestock—camels, sheep and goats—make up 85 percent of Bossaso's exports, with 200,000 or so head going through the port each month.

Protected by 140 armed security guards supported by 110 customs officials and other staff, the port's commercial activity, UN officials say, amounts to about \$1 million a month, though business has slowed recently as a result of an increased trade at the Somali port of Berbera, west of here.

Meanwhile, in the town's mushrooming center has sprouted a disorganized huddle of shops and kiosks made from old burlap sacks, cardboard and flattened oil barrels. These structures, which also double as merchants' homes, constitute a bazaar of sorts, offering everything from tea to tailoring.

Merchants have plastered their buildings with colorful pictures so their illiterate customers know what goods or services are available.

The quarrelsome-sounding Somali language rings through the air here as pedestrians—few people, even in this prospering place, have cars—jostle with scraggly goats on the gravel streets.

In the shade of a row of shacks, dozens of money-changers straddle plastic sugar sacks stuffed with bundles of up to 10 million Somali shillings: 1,000 Somali shillings are equal to about 8 cents.

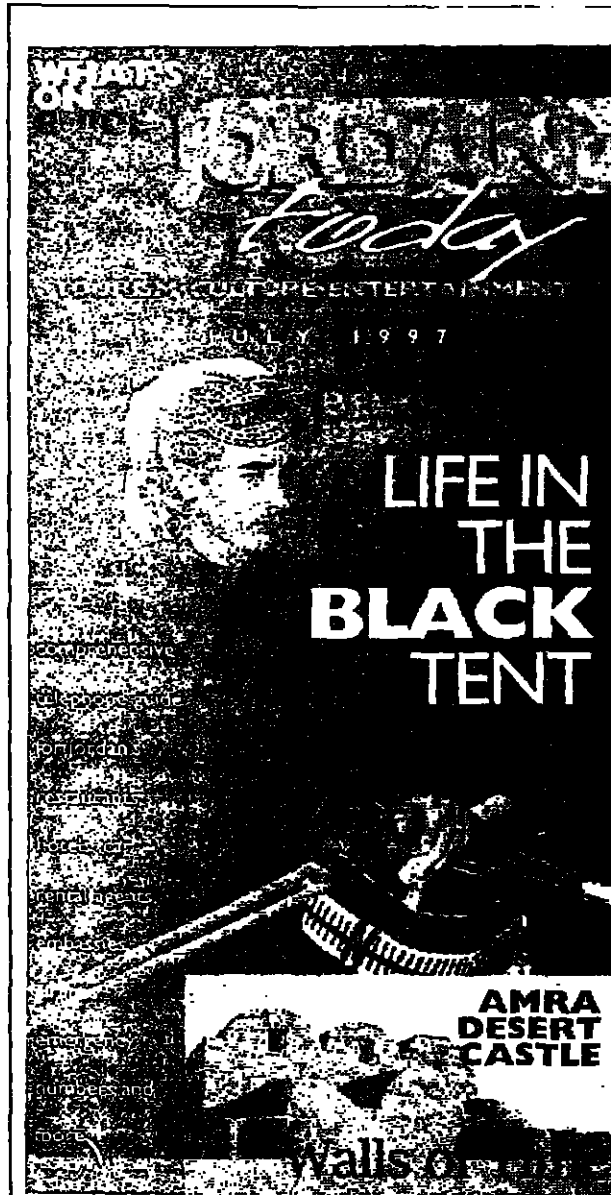
These days, Abdulahi Ahmed Noar, 26, a money dealer for three years, figures he handles the equivalent of up to \$2,000 a day. The figure rises tenfold when the ocean traffic is good. He gloats that there is no need for heavy armed security to guard his cash, because there is an unspoken code of trust among clan members here.

LA Times-Washington Post News Service

Rawat Al Sharq open new restaurant chain



MATA'EM RAW'AT Al Sharq is a new chain of restaurants that Minister of Tourism and Antiquities, Mr Agel Biltagi, recently opened. This chain of restaurants is designed and decorated in Eastern style. A number of prestigious figures and interested people attended the opening, and were shown around. Mata'em Raw'at Al Sharq took four years of continuous hard work to complete. It offers a large variety of mouth-watering Eastern dishes, which are yet another testimony to the wonders of our beloved Oriental homeland.



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Rover gets boulder, rolls to rock

Continued from page 1

the most recent members of the interplanetary family.

One dusty whitish rock became "Casper," while a flat, dark, reclining figure on the horizon was officially baptized "The Couch."

IMP camera scientist Peter Smith was so overwhelmed with emotion, he said that the joy in his heart had "reached to heaven and to Mars."

Rover scientist Henry Moore extended what he said were "personal thanks" from the driver Sojourner itself.

"She is the robotic equivalent of Neil Armstrong for Mars," he said. "She would like to thank all the engineers for getting her there safely and the people of the US and all foreign contributors for paying for her. She is your field geologist."

Researchers were intrigued by "Barnacle Bill" because it has two distinct sides to it—a red side and a gray side; and appears to be surrounded by a kind of dry moat. The darker, gray surface appears to be native rock, not covered by dust—of particular interest to geologists because it reveals Mars' true nature. The moat may have been carved by wind or water, said deputy project manager Brian Muirhead—and appeared to be quite unusual.

The rover-sized rock was also appealing because it was nearby. To reach it, Sojourner only needed to pivot 90 degrees and back up several feet. The rover was scheduled to begin analyzing Barnacle Bill to determine its elementary composition Sunday night.

JPL scientists expect to have many more dramatic images of Mars now that the Imager for Mars Pathfinder camera was standing up to its full 5-foot-6-inch height. Meanwhile, researchers are continuing to give names to the features they see.

One peak with a white stripe running through it is being nicknamed "The Ski Run," Greeley said. Another big rock was christened "Yogi."

"It may seem childish (to give names to the rocks)," said Moore, but it is a lot easier than trying to identify them by coordinates.

The rover was named after Sojourner Truth, a black woman who traveled around the country about the time of the Civil War preaching abolition of slavery.

See related stories on page 6.
LA Times-Washington Post News Service

Jordan unaffected by the proposed British Airways strike

AMMAN (Star)—British Airways Manager Fiona Hamilton confirmed that British Airways flights would not be affected by the proposed BASSA cabin crew strike. The 6 flights per week from Jordan will operate according to the regular schedule.

"We regret that the proposed actions of a small portion of the BA family is creating such needless concern for our friends and clients," said Ms Hamilton. "The airline has made every effort to resolve the issue, but sadly was unable to do so. However, Jordan will not be affected by strike action."

Ms Hamilton did suggest that people booked on continuing flights from London's Heathrow should contact BA office to confirm their reservation and/or make alternative travel arrangements. Approximately 55 percent of all the intercontinental flights from Heathrow will be in operation, as will 35 percent of the European service and the intercontinental flights from Gatwick. This should minimize the number of people inconvenienced by the possible disruption in the schedule.

Clients with ongoing tickets can contact (828-801) for information specific to their flights.

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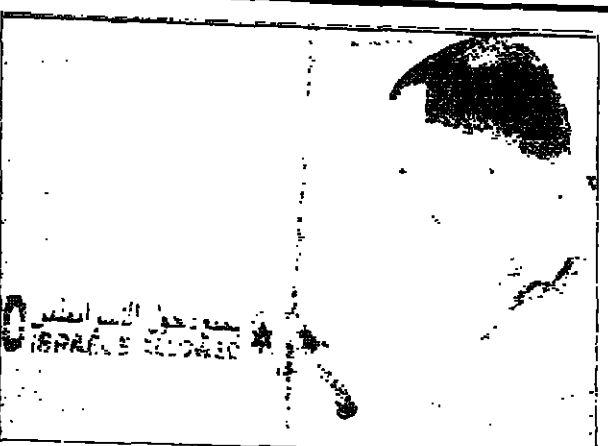
THE STAR 3

JORDAN

W E E K



An unconventional report on Jordanian news and views edited by Marwan Al Asmar



Anti Israeli signs cause a stir

Is a stand being taken or is it just a few flutterings, here and there. Two Amman shopkeepers last week decided to make their views known. One in Al Abdalli put a sticker on his shop window that said "No Israeli's allowed." Majed Hatter told AD Dastour that Israeli tourists would stand beside his shop windows and take photographs. The other shop, owned by Waddah Barghouti, was in Amman's Fourth Circle. A sign said "No dogs, no Jews" allowed. Pernicious, it must be said, but the authorities made a move to arrest the owners after Israel lodged a formal complaint to the Embassy of Jordan in Tel Aviv. Even during his arrest, Hatter was adamant. He said that he does not want to deal with Israelis and that nobody can force him to. The government is furious but is trying to play down the affair. The two men, which have been arrested, were later released. Minister of Information Affairs Samir Mutaweh said that the Kingdom would not allow its citizens to post anti-Israeli signs in their shops. However, he conceded that such action may have come as a result of the deadlocked peace process.

Earthquake myths

Earthquakes! They are going to happen in Jordan and the region, they are about to happen, they could be destructive. This is what we have been hearing at a constant rate during the last few years. Of course, earthquakes did take place like the one in Aqaba but nothing on the scale that we have been led to believe. Professor Najeeb Abu Karaki, speaking in the Institute of Diplomacy, said no one can predict an earthquake. He added that the possibility of an earthquake in Jordan is no more than a media hype spurred by commercial interests. Abu Karaki, who is an earthquake expert at the University of Jordan, spoke frankly. He said the earthquake rumors are basically made to either increase the premiums on insurance or to decrease the price of land. He also strongly rejected the claim that the last earthquake in Aqaba was the result of Israeli nuclear testing in the Red Sea.

Hot politics or female politics

Oh no, its politics again, you might say. But there is a lot happening. On one side of the scale we have another woman standing for the next parliamentary election. Surprise, surprise, she's non other than Tojan Faisal's sister. Will Laila Faisal have the same fire brand qualities as her sister, everybody is asking. She might. Laila has been a very close confidante of our outspoken Lower House deputy ever since she entered into politics. However, Laila could be more mellow. She will be fighting for Amman's Fifth District. But the political arena seems a lot more exciting than it was a couple of weeks ago. It seems fairly certain that former Prime Minister Taher Al Masri will join forces with former Prime Minister Ahmed Obeidat and form a new political party. What is even more interesting is that IAF Secretary General Dr Ishaq Al Farhan is threatening to move to the new party, if his own decides not to participate in the coming elections. Also Suleiman Arar of the Al Mustaqbal could throw in the towel and join the Masri/Obeidat axis. But these are possibilities and anything could happen in the wonderful world of politics!

Not to be deported

The spokesman of the Muslim Brotherhood, Mr Mohammad Al Sayyed is to be allowed to stay in Jordan after all. This followed rumors that he was to be deported back to Syria. In a report published in Al Quds, Islamic Action Front spokesman Hamza Mansour said that the government has allowed Al Sayyed to stay in Jordan. Mr Mansour said that this decision was taken partly because of Muslim Brotherhood pressure and partly because of humanitarian reasons.

Group wedding is the talk of town

The biggest ever group wedding will take place in Jordan on 17 July. Fifteen couples from Amman, Zerqa and Balqa will join hands in a ceremony at the Al Jihad Schools in Tabarbour. The group wedding which is organized by the Al Afaf Charity, is the third of its kind to be performed in the Kingdom.

Riots in Jabal Al Tajj

Trouble at Jabal Al Tajj was only contained when the police moved in and imposed a curfew. The trouble which developed between Caraccians and Jordanians of Palestinian origins was sparked off when a youth was knifed by a Caraccian youth. The police moved in after thousands of young people from both communities geared up in confrontation. The police became embroiled, some police officers were injured and it was reported that one police car was hit by stones. After the police gained control of the area, it arrested at least 50 people. This is not the first time that individual fights develop into collective ones in Jabal Al Tajj.

Complaining about visas

A Jordanian sent a letter to the Al Arab Al Youm newspaper complaining of ill-treatment by the Israeli Embassy in Amman of people who want visas to enter Israel. The Jordanian said he had been waiting since 29 May. He added that his passport has been held by the embassy since that time and wondered whether the Jordanian Embassy in Tel Aviv behaved in the same way Jordanian Embassy coming to this country. It is true that there are long queues outside the Israeli Embassy in Al Rabbieh, and these seem to be growing by the day. One reason for this could be because of the slowness of processing the applications forms at the embassy. On another level, a new Israeli consulate is to be established in Irbid. The idea behind such a move is to lessen the pressure on the Israeli Embassy in Amman. Could this mean the end of the long queues?

Direct flights between Jordan and Kuwait start

Kuwait Airways has begun the first of its two flights a week to the Queen Alia International Airport. Today, Thursday, 10 July, Royal Jordanian will start its first flight to Kuwait. It will have two flights a week. This is the first direct air connection between the two countries since 1990.

Prince Hassan delivers major speech in Hungary

HIS ROYAL Highness Crown Prince Hassan paid a two-day working trip to Hungary, Monday, Tuesday, as part of a worldwide tour that took the Prince to Turkey, the United States, the UK, Switzerland and Hungary.

Prince Hassan met Hungarian President Arpad Goncz and other top officials, where he explained Jordan's position on the peace process, Jerusalem, and Israeli settlements. He said Jordan has a vision of a new region where countries and peoples can live together in peace. The strengthening of bilateral relations between the two countries, was also the subject of discussion.

Prince Hassan, who was accompanied by Foreign Minister Dr Faysal Al Tarawneh and Minister of Trade and Industry Dr Hani Al Mulki, also addressed a large gathering of eminent scholars in Budapest. He said trans-regional, collaborative culture that was the defining feature of the Mediterranean civilization in the eighth to the 16th century, is [now] on the rebound after centuries of abeyance.

Prince Hassan was speaking to the International Congress of Asian and North African Studies, that was held in the capital.

"None of us can change history," he told the meeting that was attended by 1,500 experts from 70 countries that included Asia, Europe, North Africa and the Middle East. "But we can and must, use the lessons of the past to reinvigorate the present for the betterment of all." Prince Hassan returned to Jordan, Tuesday night.



HRH Prince Hassan kisses a Koran that is translated into the Hungarian language.

PM criticizes Israel's stance on peace

PRIME MINISTER Abdul Salam Majali criticized Israel's hardline stance regarding its commitments to a comprehensive peace.

Following talks with President Hosni Mubarak in Cairo, Sunday, Dr Majali remarked on the stubbornness of the Israeli leadership.

He said that "without the return of occupied Arab lands and the establishment of an independent Palestinian state with Jerusalem as its capital" there can be no peace.

As concerns Jordan's participation in MENA's Doha summit, Dr Majali said that Jordan's decision on the meeting depends on the circumstances and the progress of the peace process. He also stressed that Jordan's decision depended on that of the Arab Nation, and that even the Jordan treaty with Israel was aimed "to serve Arab interests."

Dr Majali also said that Jordan appreciated Egypt's role towards achieving peace. He also expressed Jordan's support for Egypt's call for the creation of an Arab common market. "We fully back Egypt's call for a common market and we have no reservation about this issue whatsoever", said Dr Majali.

The Prime Minister saw this as a basic step to complete Arab economic unity. The two sides stated that a joint committee has been formed to organize meetings to link their financial markets and encourage joint investment projects.



Prime Minister Majali with Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak in Cairo, Sunday.

This Saturday defence strikes back Prosecutor asks court to condemn Dakamseh

MILITARY PROSECUTORS last Saturday asked a five-member military tribunal to convict Cpl. Ahmad Al Dakamseh of "premeditated murder in the killing of seven Israeli schoolgirls," a crime that carries a mandatory death sentence.

"How would you feel if the victims were your daughters?" Lt. Col. Muhammad Hijazi, asked the five-judge military tribunal in a speech summing up his case.

Prosecutor Hijazi pleaded that the court "find him [Dakamseh] guilty of all charges and to punish him according to the law."

The defendant is on trial for allegedly gunning down the Israeli girls during a 13 March field trip in the northern Jordan Valley.

Five other girls and a teacher were also wounded. Dakamseh is charged with premeditated murder, attempted murder, mutiny and illegally firing from his weapon.

If found guilty of premeditated murder, Dakamseh, 26, could receive the death penalty from a court that heard Israeli witnesses for the first time in Jordan's history.

Hijazi said evidence presented during the five-week trial also implicated Dakamseh of "raising arms" against fellow soldiers who tried to overpower him as he opened fire from his guard post.

Dakamseh, who pleaded innocent, says he fired because the girls mocked and laughed at him as he prayed.

Hijazi said that Dakamseh asked for a rifle and extra ammunition on the day of the shooting, at the border territory of Baqoura, which Jordan redeemed after signing the peace treaty. Baqoura is now leased to Israel for a 25-year period.

He said Dakamseh hinted at his plans to one of his army comrades on the morning of the killing and sniled at another as he loaded his rifle just seconds before opening fire.

Testimonies of psychologists from the Defense claimed that the defendant is mentally unstable, and he is not responsible for his actions in a bid to convince the court that the act was not premeditated but occurred during a fit of rage.

In his two-hour speech, Hijazi said Dakamseh "has deliberately killed the innocent Israeli girls."

The court has heard that Dakamseh suffered a personality disorder. But while prosecution psychiatrists say the disorder did not cause mental instability, defense medical experts said such a condition could make patients unconscious of their acts. Dakamseh's family says he had fits of rage and tried to commit suicide years ago.

The case was adjourned until this coming Saturday when the defense lawyer, Hussein Mjalli, will wrap up its case.



Dakamseh

WANTED

Freelance writers wanted.
Excellent command of the English language is a must. Computer literacy would be an advantage.
If interested fax your CV to 648298

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Reflecting the Change



Our Say...

The summit should be postponed

THE DOHA Economic Summit, planned for November of this year, is becoming the center of political controversy in the Arab world. It is threatening to deepen existing divisions among Arab countries, which, to say the least, does not bode well for the success of this economic venue. As usual, Israel is in the heart of the controversy. The host country, Qatar, insists that it will go ahead with plans to hold the conference, which will be attended by the Zionist state. Saudi Arabia and Syria, among others, are leading the campaign to boycott the meeting.

Their objections are based on the fact that the peace process is crippled and that rewarding Israel, by inviting it to participate in the Doha summit, will only enhance its hard-line position towards meeting its obligations under the peace accords. On the other hand, there are those who see the summit as an opportunity to pressure Israel into changing its policies and salvage the peace process. Both camps are unable to come to a compromise at this stage. Either way, Israel appears to be the only winner. There is no doubt that US pressure on Qatar and other countries has a lot to do with the current crisis. The US position is clear. It seeks to reward Israel and bolster its ranking in the region regardless of its responsibilities towards regional peace.

The Middle East and North Africa Economic Conference, first launched in 1994 in Casablanca, was a product of the historic breakthrough between the Arabs and Israel after decades of hostility. Its main objective was to create regional economic cooperation in order to back up the political process represented in the Middle East peace process.

It was an idea promoted jointly by the United States and Israel, and few years ago it may have made good sense. But for more than a year, since the assassination of Yitzhak Rabin and the election of Benjamin Netanyahu, that process has been eroding until it reached a stage where it is virtually dead.

There can be little disagreement as to who stands behind the degeneration in the peace process. Under Netanyahu, Israel has changed agendas and is no longer willing to meet its obligations under the successive peace accords. The situation in East Jerusalem, Hebron and Gaza today is a case in point. It would be ludicrous for the Arabs to ignore the dangerous turnaround that has taken place since Netanyahu assumed power in Israel and move on as if nothing has happened.

The Doha summit should not take place when Israel is seeking ways to legitimize its occupation of Arab and Palestinian lands. That occupation remains the core of the Arab-Israeli conflict. The Arabs should not give Israel, and the United States, the excuse to drive another wedge into our region. The planned summit should be postponed until the political process is brought back to life. ■

Israel's Barak sees no similarities with Bibi

By Lally Weymouth

EHUD BARAK, 55, the charismatic new leader of Israel's Labor Party, does not go unmentioned in a war of words. Earlier, Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu's justice minister, Tzachi Hanegbi, claimed in the Israeli parliament that Barak, a former chief of staff, had once fled the site of an army training accident, leaving wounded men behind. Barak struck back fiercely, saying he had known the prime minister's brother Yonathan, a member of a crack commando unit who was killed during a raid to rescue a civilian airliner in Entebbe in 1976, and adding: "I am telling you, he would be ashamed of you today. I am also ashamed along with the entire Israeli public."

The Labor Party's new leader was himself the leader of an elite commando unit, and later served as chief of military intelligence, chief of staff of the Israeli defense forces and as foreign minister. As for his politics, some argue that today there isn't much difference in outlook between opposition leader Barak and Prime Minister Netanyahu. Sitting in his office recently, Barak disagreed, insisting, "I don't see any similarity." He distanced himself from Netanyahu even to the extent of saying he had warned the prime minister to "be careful of the rule of law." Barak noted that Netanyahu has attacked the media, the army and the establishment. Indeed, the Labor leader charged that Netanyahu has "blinded his eyes to a major attack on the supreme court by the ultra orthodox." He added, "It's quite a disturbing administration."

Barak, who sees himself as the successor to the late Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin ("He was my commander, my mentor, my friend"), charges that Netanyahu has lost the trust that Rabin and Prime Minister Shimon Peres engendered in both President Mubarak of Egypt and His Majesty King Hussein of Jordan.

I asked about Har Homa, the settlement that Netanyahu has been building in East Jerusalem, which has provoked an outcry in the Western and Arab worlds. It is, according to Barak, a prime example of a Netanyahu policy failure. Although the prime minister has declared that his goal is to reduce Arab expectations and to make Israel's position in Jerusalem stronger, Barak says that the result has been that "Israel has been weakened in Jerusalem in the last year and (that) the Palestinians are more involved in the daily life of Jerusalem—there's more activity in Orient House. Only the rhetoric has been strengthened."

What would he have done about Har

Homa had he been in office? Barak claims that he would not have begun the project at this particular time. He admits that Har Homa was approved by the Rabin and Peres governments, but points out that unlike Netanyahu, neither Labor prime minister actually began the controversial project. Barak admits he might one day build Har Homa, but says at that moment he would also build housing for Palestinians in East Jerusalem.

Barak says he plans to renovate the Labor Party and "give it new momentum, reshape its agenda." Currently, many Israelis see Labor as the party of the elite, dedicated to giving away land to the Arabs. But Barak says that the public knows he will never relinquish any vital asset of the land of Israel: "This gives me a kind of credibility that can compensate for our being a little bit left of Likud for the time being."

Barak stresses that he believes Netanyahu is moving toward what he describes as a "Rabin-like" approach to the peace process. He says Netanyahu is not an ideologue, and that he may even make a peace treaty with the Palestinians. Why? Because above all else, Barak argues, the Israeli prime minister is committed to his political survival. As for Netanyahu's recent plan to return 40 percent of the West Bank to the Palestinians, he says "it's just talk."

Some argue that the only hope for Netanyahu is to escape from his right-wing coalition partners and form a unity government with the Labor Party. Would Barak consider such an idea? "It's not inconceivable in case of a full-scale war or a major catastrophe," he said. Otherwise, he sees his role as trying to persuade people to replace the Likud-led government with a Labor government.

Barak worries that there may be renewed violence on the West Bank with the Palestinians and on Israel's northern border with Syria. "We have nothing to gain," he says bleakly. "After renewed violence we will bury our losses, and they will bury theirs. Then, we'll sit down to the negotiating table and negotiate the same issues. Without the peace process, there will be no security," he said. The alternative is terror-



Barak

ism and increased defense spending. Moreover, Barak believes that if the peace process grinds to a halt, the Israeli economy may head into a recession. Thus, were he elected prime minister, he'd resume negotiations with the Palestinians and the Syrians and try to restore the good relationships Israel formerly enjoyed with President Mubarak and King Hussein.

About 10 years ago, an Israeli magazine wrote a feature article about two young men, Benjamin Netanyahu and Ehud Barak—predicting that one day they would lead their parties and their country. This prediction has come true. The torch has passed from the aging founders of the state—Menachem Begin, Yitzhak Shamir, Rabin and Peres—who ruled Israel for so long to a new generation—Netanyahu and Barak. So far, Netanyahu is stumbling after one year in office. Elections are not scheduled to be held for three years. But in Israel, the unpredictable often happens. And, sooner or later, it's a good bet that Ehud Barak will get a chance to try his hand at leadership. ■

LA Times-Washington Post News Service

Orphaned by the Khmer Rouge

Children Of Cambodia's Killing Fields, By Dith Pran. Yale University Press, £16.95, 119 pages.

Reviewed by Kieran Cooke

UNDERSTATEMENT CAN be a terrifying thing. Susie Hem was five years old when Pol Pot and his murderous Khmer Rouge swept into Phnom Penh in early 1975. Four and a half years later the Vietnamese invaded. "We were freed from Pol Pot's dictatorship and rudeness."

Rudeness? More than 1.5 million killed. Torture on a massive scale. Anyone with glasses condemned as an intellectual, taken out and hacked to death. The starving forced into cannibalism.

Susie is now a beautiful in Long Beach, California. Few of those she polishes and preens can have any inkling of the horrors she has endured. "Pol Pot forced all of us to work. If someone didn't work hard, he or she would be killed in front of other people. We worked from five in the morning until dark. We got to rest for only 10 minutes, twice a day. Every night many families were being killed by Pol Pot's soldiers."

How Susie and hundreds of thousands of fellow Cambodians survived such times is a remarkable testament to humanity's strength and resilience. How they manage to reflect on those years with such poise and equanimity is nothing short of miraculous.

What drove the Khmer Rouge to such depths of barbarity is the big, unanswered question an excursion into a world gone mad.

Dith Pran, the Cambodian associate of US journalist Sydney Schanberg whose experiences were portrayed in the film *The Killing Fields*, has gathered together 29 accounts of those caught up in the Khmer Rouge butchery. They are short, simply told tales, all the more

gripping as a result. On April 16 1975, Sreytouth Sway-Ryser, then seven, was excitedly preparing for the Cambodian New Year's celebration at her sister's house in Phnom Penh. Gifts were being wrapped, food cooked. A tank went past the house. Khmer Rouge soldiers, some as young as 12 and all dressed in black, ordered the family at gunpoint to leave the capital.

The official story was that the US was about to bomb Phnom Penh. After a time, the reality sunk in. The Khmer Rouge, formed in the countryside and deeply suspicious of urban dwellers, wanted to send all city people to the rice fields and jungle whether they died or not in the process was irrelevant.

"They told us we were void. We were less than a grain of rice in a large pile. The Khmer Rouge said that the Communist revolution could be successful with only two people. Our lives had no significance to their great Communist nation, and they told us, 'To keep you is no benefit, to destroy you is no loss.'"

Yuokimny Chan was 14 in 1975. At first he had no fear of the Khmer Rouge. "These soldiers were our countrymen. We had no reason not to believe them, leaving Phnom Penh was an adventure. Thousands of people were leaving at the same time. The streets and sidewalks were covered with people carrying bags and cars crept along slowly in the congestion. There was so

much noise." Soon death was the only sight and sound Yuokimny would experience. He walked for two and half months. Unused to life in the countryside, the family soon succumbed to malaria and elder brothers were beaten to death. (To save bullets the Khmer Rouge killed by beating people with the back of a hoe or with bamboo poles.)

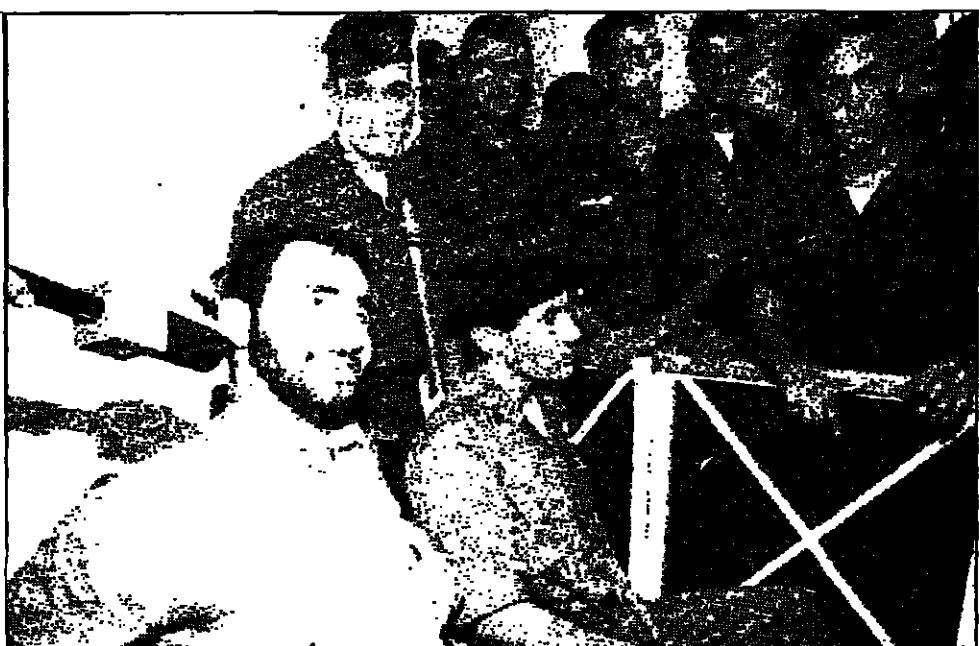
Children were encouraged to inform on their parents. "Familyism," a Khmer Rouge term for missing one's loved ones, became a crime, often punishable by death. Children were supposed to devote themselves to Angkor, the Khmer Rouge high command.

As their world was brutally turned upside down, many of these children became desperate. "I wanted to commit suicide but I couldn't," says Teeda Butt Mam, then 15 years old. "If I did, I would be labelled the enemy because I dared to show my unhappiness with their regime. My death would be followed by my family's death because they were the family of the enemy."

Even after the nightmare was over many of these children still had to endure years of suffering, being beaten and robbed by border guards in Thailand and spending months on end in refugee camps, uncertain of their fate. It is a continuing indictment of the world community that Khmer Rouge leaders have not been punished for their crimes.

Dith Pran has photos of each of the contributors, most now settled in the US. There is little bitterness in the faces, only freshness and optimism. Yet behind the smiles is the sadness of a lost childhood and a lost home. "Sometimes I sit down and cry and think about the past," says one of the survivors. "But life goes on, and I have to learn to take care of myself." ■

Financial Times Syndication



Hassan Salamah, a Hamas activist, smiles as he listens to the 46 life sentences that was passed down on him by an Israeli court, Monday. Salamah was convicted of carrying out three suicide bombings in Israel which killed 46 people last year.

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Jordan's political, economic and cultural weekly

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	10 JUL 97	9 JUL 97
US\$	0.7980	0.7970
£	1.1510	1.1510
DM	0.4124	0.4124
Sfr	0.4801	0.4801
FRF	0.1227	0.1227
YEN (100)	0.5624	0.5624
DEL	0.2466	0.2466
LIT (100)	0.0419	0.0419

SATURDAY

• Jordan Post •
• PANOS •
• Financial Times •

General Price Pointer

Trade Volume

Stock Volume

Highest Traded Stocks

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• Jordan Cement Factory •

• Jordan Cement Factory •

• Jordan Cement Factory •

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Business Chronicle

Who's responsible for the wrong statistics



Al Evers

So, this brings good news for Jordanian road truckers. About 2300 trucks are now needed to carry the shipments to Iraq and this may put an end to a prevailing recession in the market.

Companies are still grumbling. They have been forced to increase their capital from JD 600,000 to the present JD 2 million figure.

Most have found the extra cash, however there are still 12 companies that need to cough up the capital. The most likely solution for them is to merge or else close down.

This step made by the government hopes to streamline the insurance market and make it one that would meet the challenges of the new era. ■

Interest

maintains

THE INTEREST rate issue and the policy of the Central Bank of Jordan (CBJ) to keep them high to maintain the strength of the Jordanian dinar against other currencies has been under criticism for many years. However, such



However, such a policy is seen by economic experts as an inevitable option that should remain to maintain the monetary policy

However, such a policy is seen by economic experts as an inevitable option that should remain to maintain the monetary policy

Open skies, unqualified success for Air Canada

helped the economic reform program launched since 1989 to move forward successfully.

Interest rates in Jordan have been going up steadily since 1992, the highest was in 1994. Aqeel supports such a trend and argues that the interest

phy. Aqeel said that the interest rates have lately started to go down and stabilize when the objectives behind former increases have been met.

Aqeel stressed that economic reforms should continue in various economic domains related

JUST AS the Canada-US Skies agreement marks its second anniversary, Air Canada introduces its 34th new US route since the bilateral pact was signed. The airline has now a twice daily non-stop service between Toronto

The starting point for this unparalleled burst of airline activity was the Canada-US Open Skies agreement, signed on February 1995, it effectively opened the border point-to-point airline services between the two countries. Overnight, Canadians

Both yield and load factors

magazine recently voted Air Canada the "best airline for travel to Canada" for the fifth consecutive year. ■



5-7 July

SATURDAY		SUNDAY		MONDAY		TUESDAY	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Jordan Gulf Insurance JIMCO Livnack & Poultry 	↑ % 4.98 4.00 2.17	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> National Chlorine Gulf Insurance East Insurance 	↑ % 5.33 5.17 5.11	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> JIMCO Amman Cairo Bank Jerusalem Insurance 	↑ % 3.70 1.75 1.30	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Central Trade Yarmouk Insurance Zam Investment 	↑ % 5.14 4.86 4.67
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> JIMCO Inter-mediate Industry Kawther Investment 	↓ % 5.26 5.17 5.00	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Inter-mediate Industry Arab Desinerts Kawther Investment 	↓ % 5.45 4.95 4.95	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Jordan Steel Arab Medical Supplies National Salinary House 	↓ % 5.88 3.70 3.13	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Kawther Investment National Chlorine Arab for Insurance 	↓ % 5.21 5.00 4.55
General Price Point	161.788	161.296	161.110	161.020			
Trade Volume	1599694	1239955	998479	758574			
Stock Volume	671345	645671	480393	543601			
Lowest Traded Stocks Jordan Cement Factory 904675	Jordan Cement Factory 521624	Jordan Petro Chemical 44700	Jordan Cement Factory 178407				

THE DUBAI Municipality has approved the final stages of a 55-kilometer jet fuel pipeline that is being built by the Emirates Petroleum Products Company Limited (EPPCO) to meet Dubai International Airport's requirements well into the 21st century.

The approval means the pipeline, which runs from EPPCO's Jebel Ali Terminal to Dubai International Airport, will be completed and commissioned by the end of October.

"This project represents a huge investment on the part of EPPCO and with 35 kilometers already complete with the completion of the new joint fuel farm at Dubai International Airport," said Hussain Sultan, Managing Director, EPPCO.

"This project will provide Dubai International Airport and its client airlines with a more secure, reliable and safe source of jet fuel to meet its growing requirements. It has a pumping system capacity of 45,000 barrels of jet fuel a day which is more than the entire airport's projected requirements up to the year 2010."

The construction of the pipeline, which will have taken a year from start to completion, will considerably reduce the number of EPPCO jet fuel tankers on Dubai's roads.

"Ultimately this project will mean an end to the trucking of jet fuel to Dubai International Airport which will considerably heighten our efficiency," said Hussain Sultan. "While the pipeline

will initially transport only EPCCO jet fuel, the facility is available for use by other suppliers."

EPCC tankers currently average 45 trips a day between Jebel Ali and Dubai International Airport with the number reaching 60 a day during peak periods.

"There is an obvious knock-on effect on safety by reducing the risk of road haulage," said Hussain Sultan. "We have ensured that state-of-the-art technology has been built into the pipeline which automatically shuts the operation down in an emergency. This is in line with EPCCO's continued commitment to social and environmental responsibility."

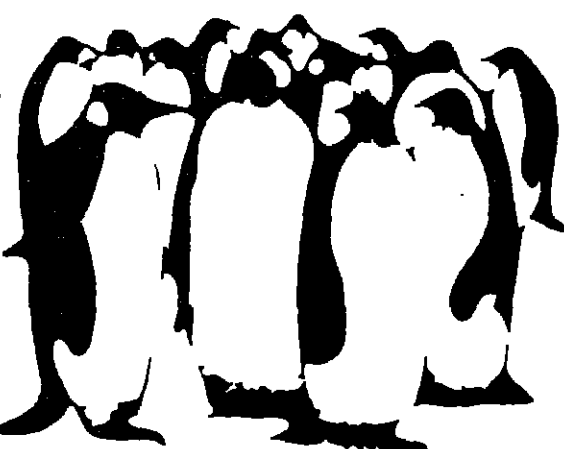
The 10-inch diameter carbon steel pipe was manufactured in accordance with the

pipeline will be installed in accordance with the relevant requirements of the American Society of Mechanical Engineers and is fitted with sophisticated Scada (Supervision Control and Data Acquisition) technology and a computerised leak detection and location system—the only one of its kind in the UAE. Three thousand tons of steel will have gone into its final completion.

The approved pipeline route was determined after extensive consultations with the Jebel Ali Free Zone Authority (JAFZA), Dubai Supply Authority, Dubai Water and Electricity Authority (DEWA) and Dubai Municipality to take account of existing and future developments. ■

Inter. C
hit w

AROUND TOWN



Congratulations

Television news reporter for JTV's Arabic channel, Rima Obeidat, was recently married to Ibrahim Bshara who works in the Investment Promotion Corp.



Portrait of a flower:

Jan Kassay and the art of photography

By Nahla Omar Rifai
Special to The Star

Captivating, enlightening, and beautiful. These are the adjectives to describe the latest flower photographic exhibition by Jan Kassay at the French Cultural Centre in Jabbal Lubweibdeh.

The exhibition contained inspiring photographs of flowers that Kassay had taken herself. With an expert eye, and through a professional lens, flowers radiated. It seems that the photographer could do no wrong. From whatever angle, the flowers just came to life.

Their rich colors are vividly portrayed, each

varying in depth and shade. Luscious yellow daffodils, deep red tulips and delicate white roses are but a sample of this beautiful collection.

Kassay also used various juicy fruits which were artistically arranged to bring out the best in the photographs.

Particularly striking, was that of a slightly slit strawberry, elegantly placed on a papaya fruit. The magnificent red of the strawberry from the outside, the lighter pinkish-red of its inside, and the dewy yellow of the papaya beneath, created an appetizing clip!

The mixture of flowers in color and arrangement was simply enigmatic: a sight for sore

eyes any day. The photographs were crystal clear and they presented close-ups of nature's marvels.

One fine photograph was that of overlapping, almost transparent lilac and yellow petals. A particularly interesting one, was that of a plate of olives with pita bread in the background. They were black, brown and green olives, and had a lustrous sheen to them, as if the morning sun shone down upon them. The sight looked splendid with thinly cut pieces of lemon intricately placed amongst the olives.

Indeed, Kassay's photographs were not simply close-ups of nature and its beauty. For they expressed her obvious understanding of different angles of light, different shades of color and an art of arrangement that she so tastefully employed in her photographs.

Kassay chose large formats transparency film because it gives greater depth and sharpness. From these transparencies, the prints were done using the cibachrome printing process.

This direct positive printing process provides exhibition quality prints that match the crisp feel and intense color of the original work. Cibachrome deluxe prints are also recognized as having superb resistance to fading. These exquisite photographs range in price from JD 175 to JD 750.

Kassay participated in many international venues. In 1988 she held an exhibition in the Washington Arts Club in Washington DC. This was followed by an individual exhibition in the Broadway gallery in Virginia, USA in 1990.

In 1986 she received the award of excellence from the Photographers Forum. That year she also won the first prize in the "New Concepts/Best Directions." This was the 37th annual exhibition, from the Arts Directors Club of Metropolitan Washington. In 1989, she received another first prize award from the Broadway gallery, and in 1991 she received an award in a juried exhibit by the Women's Caucus for Art.

Ms Kassay's photographs have also appeared on many a calendar and greeting card, in addition to covers and back covers of books and magazines.

Many of Kassay's impressive photographs have been sold to select but regular clients. Al Bourgan Crafts, Amra hotel, Al Zay clothing, Kan Zaman, UNICEF, and the Arab Academy for Banking and Finance are but a few.

The artist's current exhibition continues till 29 July. So for all those art lovers out there, be sure not to miss it!



Presented by the National Music Conservatory

Classical music at Jerash festival

AT THE close of last year's Jerash festival for Culture and Arts, over 2000 people enjoyed a classical musical evening that featured the Philadelphia Youth Orchestra and the Orchestra of the National Music Conservatory (NMC). This wonderful amalgamation of musicians performed an exciting program that reached its climax when fireworks were launched to light the sky as part of Tchaikovsky's brilliant "1812" overture.

This scene will be repeated four times this July as the Jerash Festival, in cooperation with the NMC, presents four major orchestral performances.

On Friday 25 July, at the North Theatre, the Mediterranean Youth Orchestra, under the baton of maestro Henry Galles, and the Orchestra of the National Music Conservatory will join in performing "Capriccio Italian", another one of Tchaikovsky's brilliant compositions. Ninety-four of the best musicians in the Mediterranean area will sit next to 62 musicians from the Jordanian Orchestra to perform this outstanding work. In addition, the program will feature the "Young Person's Guide to the Orchestra" by Benjamin Britten and "Alborado Gracioso" by Maurice Ravel. Britten's piece was composed especially to introduce the instruments of the Orchestra in

an exciting frame, appealing to all ages.

In addition to the Mediterranean Youth Orchestra which comes to Jerash under the joint auspices of the European Union and the French government, the European Union, once again, renders the Jerash festival an 22-persons orchestra to perform masterpieces of the Baroque period which is noted for ornamentation palaces that were part of the architecture of Europe in the 17th and mid-18th centuries. These ornaments and decorations were evident in all art forms, at the forefront of which is music.

The European Union's Baroque Orchestra, under the baton of Roy Goodman, will present two different performances on Sunday 3 August and Monday 4 August, at the North Theatre and the Royal Cultural Center respectively. Each performance features pieces written by some of the most famous composers of the Baroque period such as: Vivaldi, Bach, Emanuel Handel, Telemann, Quantz and Rameau. The concert is held in cooperation with Mutsucheta Europe Electricity Foundation.

The third orchestral performance will be held on Saturday 9 August at the North Theatre and will feature the Montreal Baroque orchestra. The Orchestra is conducted by its harpsichord player, Joel Thifault. The program of the eve-

ning features pieces by prominent composers such as Carl Philip, Bach, Haydn, Beethoven, Corelli, Vivaldi and Mozart.

The last of these orchestral performances will be held on the closing day of the Jerash Festival at the North Theatre which will host a grand musical show featuring the Orchestra of the NMC accompanied by a big choir, solo vocalists and a pianist.

Following its tradition of presenting programs that appeal to Arabs and foreigners alike in its Jerash concert, the NMC has prepared a varied and delightful program that features the music of the famous musical "Cats", excerpts from the romantic film "Sound of Music", and an outstanding performance on the piano by an 11-year-old local talent accompanied by the Orchestra.

In addition, the program will feature the following Arab songs: *Beini On Bainak*, *Ya Hal Layl*, *El Hilwa de Amil Te'gin*, *Til' el Yama Ahla Nurlu*, *Yo Qisas*, *Ya Lar Hubikhi*, *Ya Zahranan Foc Khayali*, *Akhir Eyan el Saifeh* and *Muwashshah Badru Tam*.

The orchestra is conducted by Mohammad Sidqi and the Choir is trained by Samia Ghanoun. Rita Madi and Arminak Arminak.

Inter.Com and BMW hit world by storm

INTERCONTINENTAL Hotels and Resorts announced the launch of a unique roadster with the luxury car maker BMW.

The promotion which runs until December 31 1997, provides existing and new members of Intercontinental Hotels loyalty programme, Six Continents Club, with the opportunity to enter a prize draw to win a new BMW Z3 Roadster.

The promotion creates a partnership between BMW and Intercontinental Hotels who are known for excellence. "There is a great deal of synergy between our two companies," said Steffen Banks, area vice president sales and marketing, Middle East and Africa for Intercontinental Hotels and Resorts. "Both companies attract a similar profile of customers, in panies, and a similar profile of customers, in fact many of our guests drive a BMW; therefore it is a perfect promotion which will benefit our loyal guests."

Running at all of Intercontinental Hotels in Middle East and Africa, programme members are entitled one entry to the draw each time they check in to an Intercontinental hotel in the region. The same applies to non-members who choose to join the Six Continents Club upon check-in added Banks. Membership cost is \$100 per year with a renewal fee of \$25 thereafter. The membership fee is waived if the guest stays more than 30 days per year, with the member achieving an Executive membership level (Executive members receive two entries every time they stay a hotel).

The BMW promotion is a further addition to the range of privileges enjoyed by members of the Six Continents Club such as a special check-in area, upgrade to a superior room—guests pass a single rate for a double occupancy—plus a VIP greeting and in-room gift, as well as an express check-out facility and check-out time extended to 4 pm.

Intercontinental Hotels and Resorts is owned by the Salson group of Japan and is represented worldwide via corporate offices in Amsterdam, Cairo, Hong Kong, London, Miami and New York. The company's portfolio now includes more than 200 hotels in 71 countries, which includes its first-class Intercontinental Hotels and Resorts brand, mid-price hotels under the Forum Hotels and Resorts and Global Partners Hotels and Resorts.



Coca Cola Jordan receives quality award

THE JORDAN Coca Cola Company was awarded the Silver Award for Quality by the international Coca Cola Company, Phillip Giorgio, regional manager of the Far East Coca Cola division, presented this award of excellence to the workers of the Coca Cola Company, Jordan.

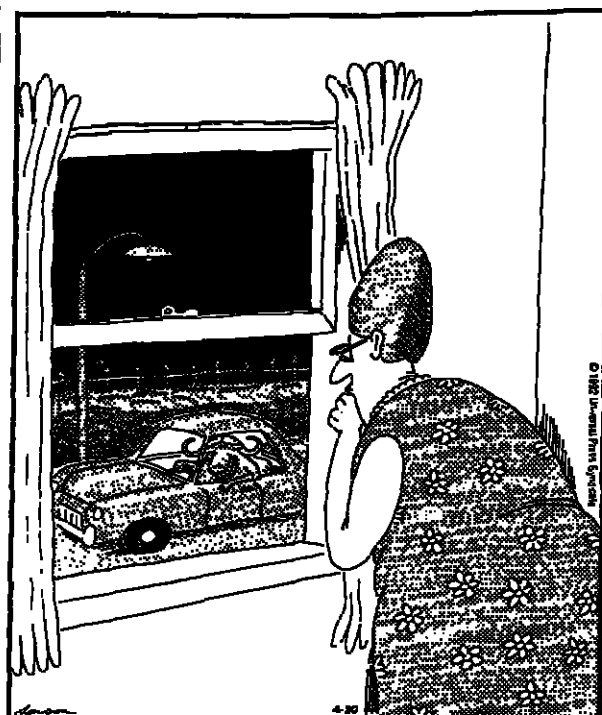
Aziz Yousef, the general manager of the Jordan Coca Cola branch, thanked the "mother" Company for its appreciation and support of Jordan Coca Cola soft drinks. Yabha Ghazzal, manager of the Jordan branch, also extended his thanks to the international Coca Cola Company. He said that the Coca Cola "mother's" appreciation



came as a recognition of the great efforts of the Jordanian workers who produced Coca Cola products in accordance with the international Coca Cola acclaimed standard.

THE FAR SIDE

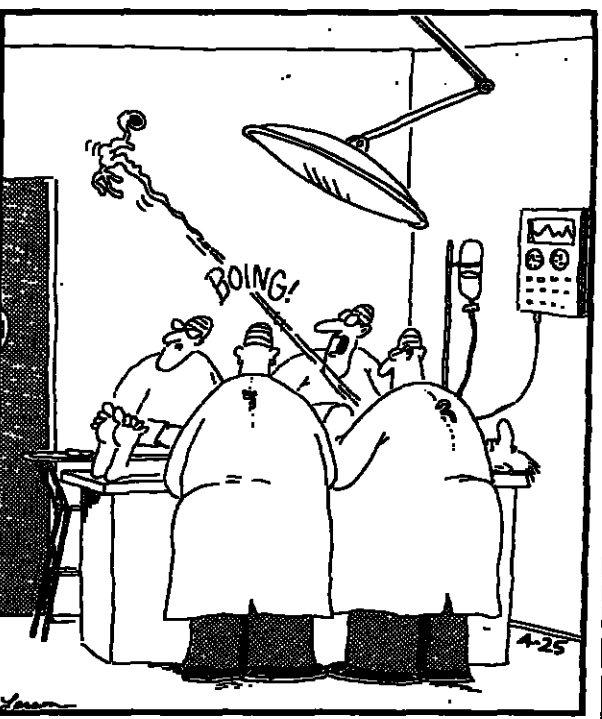
By GARY LARSON



Scene from "Cape Buffalo Fear"



"Dang! That dog's been up on the sofa again, Hank — I just know it!"



"Whoa! Watch where that thing lands — we'll probably need it."

SLAPSTIX
An atheist is a person who has no invisible means of support.

AGENDA

Exhibitions

■ "The Contemporary Arab Artists Exhibition" showing the works of more than 60 artists from the Arab world, continues at Darat al Funun, runs till 24 July.
■ Paintings by nine contemporary Iraqi artists, entitled "Ecology & Environment in the Iraqi Art", at the Royal Society of Fine Arts, runs till 12 July.
■ Artworks of Sami Gamrah entitled "Biyoot Min Al Salt" continues at Al Tagadom Association (Dabouq-Al Hummar) till 14 July.
■ An exhibition entitled "Silver Jewelry" continues at the Jordan Design and Trade Centre of Noor Al Hussein Foundation till 20 July.

■ The artworks of Karim Rasim at Orient Gallery finish today 10 July.

Film

■ Honey I Shrunk The Kids at The American Center, Thursday 10 July, at 5:00 pm. (Eng.)
■ Fantasia at The American Center, Thursday 24 July, at 5:00 pm. (Eng.)
■ Espion lève-toi at The French Cultural Center, Monday 13 July, at 8:30 pm. (Fre.)
■ Asterix in Britain at British Council, Tuesday 15 July, at 5:00 pm. (Eng.)
■ Playdays on the Move at British Council, Wednesday 16 July, at 5:00 pm. (Eng.)

Nashashibi & Ebbini Forms Regional pioneers in computer forms

NASHASHIBI & Ebbini Forms was the first in Jordan and the Middle East to produce computer forms and labels of all kinds. Since it was established in 1979, the company has sought to develop new markets, and satisfy the requirements of its clients. Today, it is market leader in the region.

The company has a well established customer base around the Arab world and is eager to develop markets in Asia, Europe, and Africa. Recently export market expanded to include Ethiopia, Cyprus and Lebanon. Nashashibi & Ebbini Forms aims at reaching a level of workmanship in design, materials, layout and production equal to that of any country in the world.

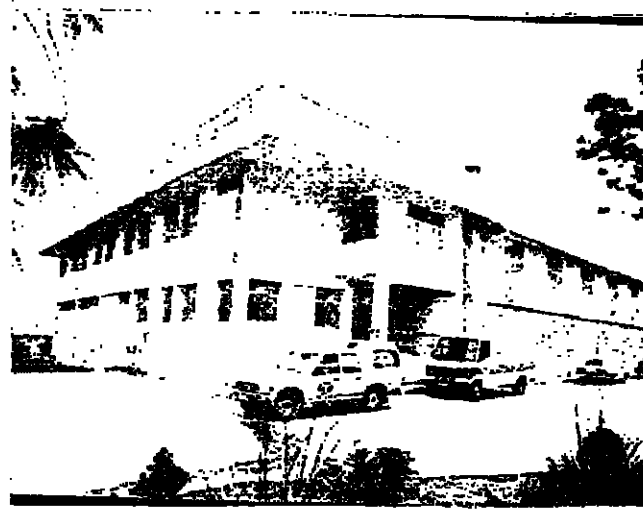


Othman Nashashibi

The work in designing and producing computer forms and labels in all types, as well as printed labels in rolls and other technical and medical forms require accuracy, reliability and comprehensive quality system. The company managed to maintain this and obtained the EN ISO 9001:1994 certificate from National Quality Assurance, U.K.

As customers demand delivery schedules to count on, the company is committed to provide the clients with the service they desire.

It has been its objective to stay in the leading edge with the latest advances in materials, equipment, and printing techniques used worldwide. New equipment was recently acquired allowing substantial increase in capacity as well as additional versatility. The company plays an important role in the development of the paper converting industry in the Arab World through its participation in professional associations such as the Amman Chamber of Industry, the Arab Federation for Paper Printing and Packaging Industries and the International Business Forms Industries (IBFI).



Nashashibi & Ebbini Forms specializes in:
■ Continuous Computer Forms in wff paper, carbonless and other special quality papers, also in different sizes.
■ Self-Adhesive Labels for computers and laser printers as well as labels in rolls.
■ Sany-sets, medical forms used for E.E.G. & E.C.G. and other Technical Forms.

Jordanian companies taking part in partnership

Continued from page 8

Sea Products
■ Jordan Industrial Resources Co.
■ Jordan Medical Corporation Ltd.
■ Jordan Minerals establishment (JME)
■ Jordan Rubber Industries
■ Jordan Sipes Paints Company
■ Jordanian Tunisian Chemical Co.
■ Kamel Azar and Sons Co.
■ Modern Company for Fertilizer Production
■ Munir Sukhian Group
■ National Ammonia and Chemical Industries
■ National Drip Irrigation Co.
■ National Pains Factories Co. Ltd.
■ Olympia Factory for Chemical Industries
■ Orient Plastic Company
■ Oscar Dead Sea Products Corporation
■ Plastik for Plastic Industrial Co.
■ Ram Pharmaceutical Company
■ The Arab Pharmaceutical Manufacturing Co. Ltd.
■ The Industrial Commercial & Agricultural Co.
■ Universal Salts Ltd.
■ World Plastics for Construction Industries
■ Yamama Agri-Products Industrial Co. (YAPI)
■ Zura Natural Dead Sea Products
■ Zoar Natural Dead Sea Products

Bureau (CEB)
■ Eastern Chains Co. for Goldsmith & Jewelry Ltd.
■ Elias Nasser and Associates
■ Elshakori Trading Establishment
■ H. Q. and Partner
■ Integrated Technology Group
■ Ikan Establishment
■ Jordan Exporters & Producers Assoc. for Fruit & Vegetables
■ Jordan Group Shipping Agencies Ltd.
■ Jordan Investment Corporation
■ Jordan Technical Consultants Group (JTCG)
■ Jordan Technology Group Ltd.
■ Management Consultants Group International
■ Michael Dabit & Associates
■ Attorneys at Law
■ Philadelphia Consulting Group Ltd.
■ Talal Abu Ghazaleh International Co.

Co.
■ Jordan Universal Gas Cookers & Washing Machines
■ Kaddoura Engineering Establishment
■ Khalifeh Industrial Company
■ Metal Industries Co. Ltd. (METALCO)
■ Middle East Complex (MEC)
■ Nasser Manufacturing Trading Co.
■ National Multi Engineering Industries Co.
■ National Radiator Factory
■ Petra Engineering Industries Co.
■ Rum Metal Manufacturing Co.
■ Salmar Group
■ Universal Metal Extrusion Co.

Building material

■ A/W Yassin and Sons Co.
■ Arab Ceramic Industries Co.
■ Atanqeeb Company
■ Jordan Cement Factories Co.
■ Jordan Metal Works Co. Ltd.
■ Jordan Rock Wool Industries Co.
■ Modern Industrial Marble and Granite Industries
■ Prefabricated Buildings Co.

Engineering, mechanical and electrical

■ Abu Hattam for Electronic & Electric Industries Corporation
■ Advanced Engineering Technologies Corporation
■ Ahliyah Metal Industries Co.
■ Al Jalal Metal Industrial Co.
■ Al Wafra Trading and Industrial Est.
■ Aladdin Industries Co. Ltd.
■ Alfidia Industrial Establishment
■ Arab Engineering Industries Co. Ltd.
■ Arabian Steel Pipes Manufacturing Co.
■ Ashour Industrial & Trading Co.
■ Beta Industries for Rotary Screw Compressors
■ Group for Cooperative Investments
■ Hatif Telecom Industries Co.
■ Household Appliances Manufacturing Co. (HAMCO)
■ International Est. for Manufacturing and Trading
■ Jordan Investment and General Consulting Company Ltd.
■ Jordan Sanitaryware Industrial

Services and trading

Building Consultancy
■ Computer and Engineering

**Kasih's
canned food
go back to
mother nature**

KASIH CANNED Food Production Co. was established in 1994 on the foot steps of its mother company Reslan Kasih & Sons Co. that was established in 1926.

Kasih Canned Food products include broad beans, chick peas, green peas, white beans in Tomato Paste plus Hommous Tahini.

The company has demonstrated its commitment to quality by being the first Jordanian food producer to obtain the ISO 9000 certification. In addition it has invested in a state of the art Tetra Pak package which is one of the best methods available for the preservation of food products.

Mr. Mohammed Kasih, general manager, said the company is looking forward to its participation in the Medpartenariat '97. He considers it as an opportunity for the company to meet international business people, with whom several corporation opportunities are present in working together for mutual benefit.

Al Safi provides quality salts for industrial production

THE SAFI Salt Co. Ltd (JOSSCO), which was established in January 1996 at a capital of \$17 million, is a public share holding company.

The company's factory is quite naturally located at the Dead sea—the lowest sheet of water on the earth's surface. The brines of the Dead sea are the saltiest in the world, consisting of 7.5 percent W/W Sodium Chloride, this is equivalent to a total of about 12 billion tons.

The sea is also rich with other salts and minerals such as Potash, Magnesium, Calcium Bromides and other elements.

The company operates a salt plant located at southern end of the Dead sea, together with loading and storage facilities in the port of Aqaba. Total investment in its facilities has been about \$26 million.

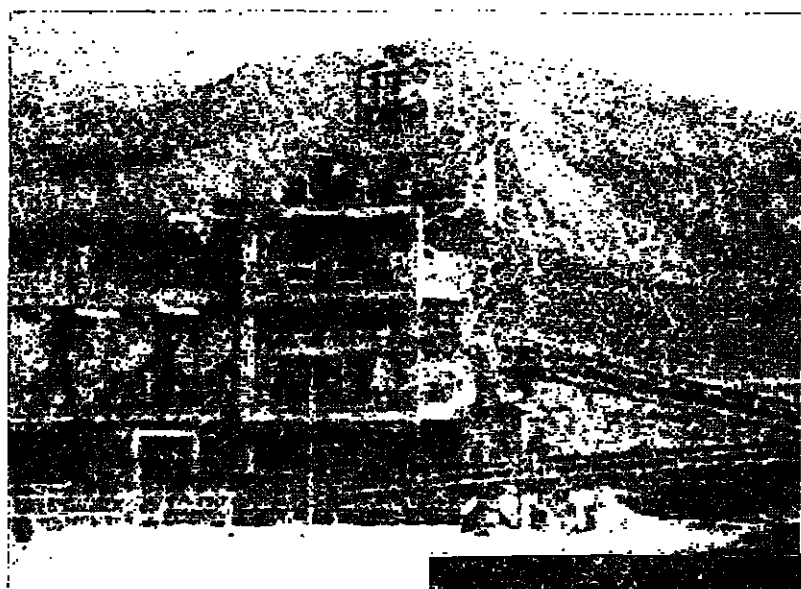
Mr. Awni Ammarin, general manager of JOSSCO says "The salt plant has a capacity of 1.2 million tons per annum of industrial salt which is destined for export, either directly or through strategic alliances with international marketing net works. Its products include 32000 M.T. of high grade table salt and salt tablets in various packages, designed for local and regional markets."

The main export markets for the industrial salt are the countries in the Mediterranean basin and the Asian countries.

The main purpose of the company is to supply Chloro-Alkali industries which include high quality salt to countries all over the world.

Table salt is marketed in Jordan and the region to provide a quality product which is packaged in various forms and sizes.

The company employs 250 people in three locations and has an annual turnover of about \$26 million.



Ammarin.

Best in textiles with "III Group"

TEXTILES is a major part of the industrial fabrics of any economy. With the International Industrial Investments Group, "III Group," the industrial sector in Jordan is developing. The III Group is one of the leaders in the manufacturing of knitted fabrics, and garments. It is involved in the 'knitting, dyeing, cutting and the sewing processes.

The main products are five rib, Jersey, fleece and interlock fabrics. Men's and women's underwear, T-shirts and sweatshirts which are made from the best Egyptian cotton. For more information, contact main Amman office at e-mail iiii@go.com.jo, fax: 699960-tel: 4162913.



The Star
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Online

Visit our Website
<http://www.arabia.com/Star>

Jordan Wood Industries Co. Ltd. (JWICO)

JWICO was established in November 1995 as a joint-venture with Jutland Dore A/S of Denmark, which is the biggest and most technologically advanced company for producing wooden doors in Denmark.

At the beginning of 1979, the company started to export its doors to the Middle East. It succeeded so well that it had to double its production capacity. As a result it became a public share holding company at the end of 1982, and increased its paid-up capital.

In 1986, a new production line was installed for the manufacturing of panel furniture such as kitchen cabinets, bedroom and office furniture in addition to tables and chairs. In 1994 and 1995, sales of these products reached JD 5 million annually.

JWICO has recently implemented a large expansion program intended to double and improve its production of kitchens cabinets, bedroom and office furniture.

The company has two major production lines. The first one has a panel production capacity for case products including kitchen cabinets, bedroom and office furniture, of 6400 sq. ft per 8 hours shift. The second one of the production of solid wood components shift. The second one of the production of 300 PCs per 8 hours shift, and internal flush doors with a capacity of 300 PCs per 8 hours shift.

The company exports its products to the United Arab Emirates, Saudi Arabia, Lebanon and Israel. In order to satisfy the needs of these markets and other fast growing export markets, a new machinery has been purchased and a two storey building has been established.

The company plans to introduce new designs of office and bedroom furniture, in particular, open office space systems. The company is expected to get the ISO certification in 1997.

Desired Cooperation

The company seeks contact with a European partner in their field of specialization who could enhance the company's production and design capabilities in terms of design exchange, partial unit production and subcontracting. The company also seeks contact with wholesalers or agents to market and distribute its products in Europe.

Jordan Wood Industries Co. Ltd. P.O. Box 5272 Amman 11183 Jordan.
Tel. 962 (6) 438171 Fax 962 (6) 4394672, E-mail: export@jwico.com
www.jwico.com contact person Mr. Anwar Baddad

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Les hommes de la Révolution SAINT-JUST

Sa jeunesse - il est le plus jeune député de la Convention - sa beauté, son tempérament exalté et intransigent, et sa courte carrière politique en font un personnage de légende. Vouant une admiration sans bornes à Robespierre, il suit un parcours parallèle. Il entre au comité de salut public puis remplit avec succès plusieurs missions aux armées. Elu président de la Convention en février 1794, il renforce la terreur, élabore les décrets de ventôse et aide Robespierre dans la lutte contre les factions. Il monte à l'échafaud le 28 juillet 1794 en compagnie de ce dernier.

Ses institutions républicaines furent publiées après sa mort : il y propose une république vertueuse, sur le modèle spartiate.

Expérience

Etudiant à Mafraq

Hugo était sans doute le premier Français venu étudier à l'université islamique d'Al-Albeyt près de Mafraq. Quatre mois d'une vie de potache un peu particulière.

Difficile de

s'occuper le soir à l'université Al-Albeyt de Mafraq. Les soirées d'Hugo ont souvent été longues. Cours d'arabe le matin, révisions l'après-midi, dîner à 18h30 et après ? Après, il n'y a pas grand chose à faire. Dans cette université islamique internationale, les fêtes nocturnes ne sont pas autorisées. Pas d'alcool, pas de cigarettes et les relations entre filles et garçons sont très surveillées.

Hugo avoue que «la vie universitaire n'est pas drôle, là-bas».

Construite dans un ancien camp militaire, en plein désert, à 80 kilomètres au nord-est d'Amman, l'université Al-Albeyt est une sorte d'énorme campus, entouré de barbelés qui n'inspirent pas vraiment l'enthousiasme. Hugo, dès qu'il peut, essaye de passer ses week-ends dans la capitale : «quand je me retrouve à Abdali, j'ai tout de suite une impression de vie et d'impression».

Alors pourquoi être allé s'inscrire à Mafraq ? Pour bien apprendre l'arabe tout simplement. Après un premier trimestre d'enseignements décevants à l'université de Jordanie, Hugo a décidé de continuer l'année dans le désert. A Al-Albeyt, si on ne s'y amuse pas trop, en revanche, on y travaille dur. En quelques temps, le jeune homme fait des progrès phénoménaux et avoue n'avoir des difficultés qu'à saisir le dialecte des bedouins du

désert. «Ici, quand tu parles arabe, les gens sont très contents», apprécie-t-il, «parfois, les chauffeurs de taxis ne me faisaient même pas payer parce que je parlais leur langue». Sur le campus aussi bien entendu, les discussions s'engagent en arabe (le dialecte d'ailleurs). Hugo a surtout sympathisé avec les autres étudiants étrangers du campus. Comme lui, ils sont venus apprendre l'arabe, la langue du

Coran. Ils viennent d'Ukraine ou de

Guinée. Tous ou presque sont musulmans.

Lui, le Français aux cheveux

blonds, se dit chrétien. Alors les débats religieux sont nom-

breux. Hugo, malgré un pas-

sage à l'école, des pères polo-

nois, n'est pas un défenseur acharné de sa religion.

Il préfère écouter et n'hésite pas à questionner ses

camarades : «je les ai souvent interrogés sur les contraintes imposées par l'Islam».

On lui répond sans s'offusquer mais toujours avec une pointe de prosélytisme. Malgré les apparences et sa barbe de «cheikh», Hugo ne s'est pas converti à l'Islam après quatre mois passés à Mafraq. Aujourd'hui il est retourné en France mais se promet de revenir un jour dans le Moyen-Orient pour travailler dans le domaine de l'eau «il y a tant à faire ici» - et surtout ne pas perdre son arabe.

Le Jourdain

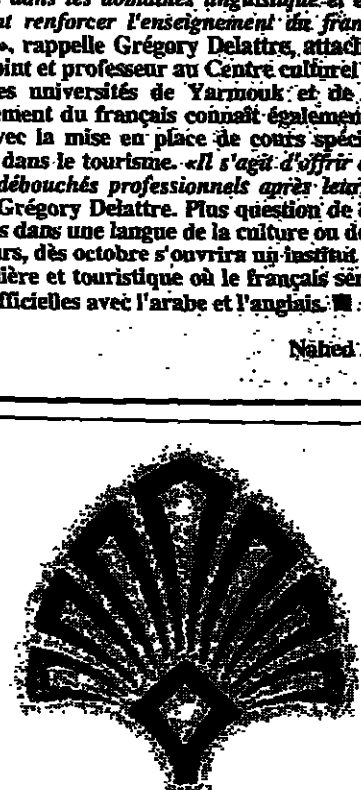
Education

Le français au tawjihi 1999

Plus de 25.000 élèves apprennent le français dans les écoles privées et peut-être 4.500 à la rentrée prochaine dans les écoles publiques. Désormais le français sera proposé aux jeunes Jordaniens dès la huitième dans l'ensemble des établissements publics du pays. Dès lors, quand 20 familles demandent l'introduction du français, une classe est ouverte. Selon les estimations officielles du ministère de l'éducation, 80 classes nouvelles doivent s'ouvrir dès l'année prochaine. Jamais la langue de Molière n'avait connue un tel engouement en Jordanie. Le ministre de l'éducation et de l'enseignement Dr Munther Al-Masri prévoit même d'en faire une des matières du tawjihi à la rentrée 1999, une matière optionnelle pour la section littéraire voire obligatoire pour la filière hôtelière.

Suite à la visite du président Jacques Chirac en Jordanie l'année dernière, une commission mixte s'est réunie début 97 pour «favoriser la coopération entre les deux pays dans les domaines linguistique et éducatif et notamment renforcer l'enseignement du français dans les écoles», rappelle Grégory Delattre, attaché linguistique adjoint et professeur au Centre culturel français. Dans les universités de Yarmouk et de Jordanie, l'enseignement du français connaît également des évolutions avec la mise en place de cours spécialisés notamment dans le tourisme. «Il s'agit d'offrir aux étudiants des débouchés professionnels après leurs études», poursuit Grégory Delattre. Plus question de cantonner le français dans une langue de la culture ou de l'amour. Par ailleurs, dès octobre s'ouvrira un institut de formation hôtelière et touristique où le français sera une des langues officielles avec l'arabe et l'anglais.

Nahed Al-Khloof



The Garden of
Ba Mairan Verté
Bashir Al-Khloof
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«Pas de paix possible avec la colonisation»

Pour Bernard Bajolet, ambassadeur de France en Jordanie, la direction choisie par Israël ne peut mener à une reprise du dialogue.

Le Jourdain: Comment jugez-vous l'attitude de Netanyahu vis-à-vis du processus de paix depuis un an ?

Bernard Bajolet: Nous sommes très déçus. Nous espérons que le dernier mot n'a pas été dit. Actuellement la situation est bloquée et on peut très sincèrement se demander si le gouvernement israélien veut toujours la paix.

Le Jourdain: Est-il possible de sortir de cette crise ?

Bernard Bajolet: Oui, à condition de le vouloir. Or nous avons l'impression que cette volonté n'existe pas. Avant de mettre en oeuvre ce qui a été décidé, notamment sur Hébron, et d'engager les discussions sur le statut final, il faut reprendre le dialogue. Les compromis sont toujours possibles pour permettre aux deux parties de se remettre à la table des négociations. L'Union Européenne a fait des propositions en ce sens : premièrement, la suspension de la colonisation et deuxièmement, la coopération pleine et entière de l'Autorité palestinienne en matière de sécurité. Nous ne mettons pas les deux choses en rapport. Ce sont simplement deux points qui nous paraissent importants et qui permettraient une reprise des négociations.

De toute façon, on ne peut pas prétendre vouloir la paix et en même temps poursuivre la colonisation. Cela veut dire qu'Israël ne reconnaît pas aux Palestiniens le droit de créer une entité viable qui, pour nous Français, doit prendre la forme d'un Etat. Nous comprenons donc très bien que les Palestiniens refusent de reprendre les négociations si les opérations de colonisation se poursuivent. Je le répète, il n'y a pas de paix possible avec la poursuite de la colonisation.

Le Jourdain: Le gouvernement israélien ne désire donc pas faire aboutir le processus de paix commencé à Madrid ?

Bernard Bajolet: De deux choses l'une : soit Israël estime qu'il doit faire la paix et que son avenir ne sera assuré dans la région que lorsqu'il aura des relations normales avec chacun de ses voisins. C'est la voie qui avait été suivie jusqu'à présent et nous espérons qu'elle aurait été poursuivie par M. Netanyahu. Soit Israël n'a pas besoin de la paix et peut continuer à vivre en étant entouré de pays plus ou moins hostiles. Nous avons l'impression que c'est la deuxième formule qui a été choisie et à mon avis, elle est très trompeuse. Cela étant, je suis persuadé que la grande ma-

jorité du peuple israélien soutient la paix.

Le Jourdain: Pensez-vous que les Palestiniens montrent aussi de la mauvaise volonté ?

Bernard Bajolet: J'ai tendance à penser que les Palestiniens aussi souhaitent faire la paix car pour eux, c'est leur vie de tous les jours qui est en jeu. Mais ils sont en position de faiblesse. Cela dit, ils ont également leur part de responsabilité. Il est important qu'ils ne donnent aucun prétexte au gouvernement israélien pour ne pas reprendre la voie de la paix. Il est essentiel que l'Autorité palestinienne joue entièrement le jeu de la coopération en matière de sécurité. Nous estimons d'autre part que les Palestiniens doivent faire beaucoup d'efforts pour assurer une gestion plus rigoureuse et pour garder la confiance des principaux pays donateurs. Enfin, il y a beaucoup à faire pour la démocratie : le conseil législatif palestinien doit jouer pleinement son rôle de contre-pouvoir et il faut bien dire que jusqu'à présent cela n'a pas été le cas.

Le Jourdain: L'Europe doit-elle avoir un rôle plus actif dans le processus de paix ?

Bernard Bajolet: L'Europe doit-elle avoir un rôle plus actif dans le processus de paix ? Nous sommes plus que les Etats-Unis ou la Russie ou même l'Egypte, en dépit de leurs efforts, aucun de ces partenaires ne pourra faire la paix à la place des parties concernées. En revanche, nous pouvons contribuer à réduire les tensions, à trouver les points d'accord, à catalyser les bonnes volontés.

Le Jourdain: En France, le gouvernement du nouveau premier ministre Lionel Jospin va-t-il poursuivre la même politique au Proche-Orient ?

Bernard Bajolet: Oui, car d'une façon générale, il y a eu une très grande continuité de la politique française à l'égard du Proche-Orient depuis le général De Gaulle. Ce n'est pas un affaire de partis. J'ai moi-même assisté aux entretiens à Paris que le roi Hussein a eus avec Jacques Chirac et Lionel Jospin. Le roi était la première personnalité étrangère à être reçue en France après la formation d'un nouveau gouvernement. Le président de la République et le Premier mi-

nistre lui ont tenu le même langage.

Nous ne sommes pas plus du côté des Palestiniens que du côté des Israéliens contrairement à ce que ces derniers pensent parfois. Nous sommes pour la paix au Proche-Orient. Nous souhaitons que l'Etat d'Israël soit un Etat prospère, accepté dans sa région. Mais nous disons ce que nous pensons être le droit et la justice et cela implique la reconnaissance du peuple palestinien et de leur droit à former un Etat viable. Nous essayons de persuader les Israéliens que la création d'un Etat palestinien serait pour eux la meilleure façon de garantir leur sécurité parce qu'on peut discuter avec un Etat et parce que la satisfaction des aspirations palestiniennes assurerait une relation pacifique entre les deux peuples. C'est au contraire les frustrations, le déni de droit, qui provoquent les réactions de violence.

Le Jourdain: La France vient d'annoncer qu'en cas de retrait des troupes israéliennes du Sud-Liban, elle enverrait une force de maintien de la paix. Que signifie cette prise de position et quels pourraient en être les risques terroristes ?

Bernard Bajolet: Nous souhaitons qu'Israël quitte les territoires du Liban. Si le Liban le demande, nous serons prêts à assurer des garanties de sécurité. Mais il est clair que ces mesures doivent faire l'objet d'un accord de l'ensemble des parties concernées.

Le Jourdain: La situation politique régionale n'est pas favorable aux investissements étrangers. Y'a-t-il des conditions propres à la Jordanie qui entravent également ces investissements ?

Bernard Bajolet: Le processus de décision est compliqué et les choses vont beaucoup plus lentement que je ne l'espérais moi-même. Mais j'ai peut-être cette impression en raison de ma nature impatient. Il faut énormément de ténacité à une entreprise française pour qu'elle maintienne son intérêt. Il y en a quelques-unes qui se sont découragées, mais un plus grand nombre reste attiré par les avantages que présente la Jordanie. Ainsi la Lyonnaise des eaux, la Générale des Eaux, la CAT (transports internationaux) etc... se sont installées à Amman ré-

comment. Et dans le domaine de l'eau justement, le gouvernement jordanien va lancer un appel d'offres pour la privatisation de la gestion du réseau du Grand Amman.

Il y a de la part du gouvernement local une volonté d'aller dans le sens des privatisations. C'est en fait une question de rythme et cela dépend aussi du contexte politique général.

Propos recueillis par Ali Kassey et Yannick Laine



SUEZ LYONNAISE DES EAUX

PRESS RELEASE
SHAREHOLDERS APPROVE SUEZ LYONNAISE DES EAUX
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NEW ORGANISATIONAL STRUCTURE NOW IN PLACE

The shareholders of Compagnie de Suez and Lyonnaise des Eaux (LDE) have overwhelmingly approved the proposed merger of the two companies at their annual general meetings held respectively on June 11 (Suez) and June 19 (LDE). The approval results in the creation of a new company, effective from 1 January 1997, called Suez Lyonnaise des Eaux. Revenues will be US\$ 40.1 billion (FF 210 billion). Suez Lyonnaise des Eaux has operations in nearly 120 countries with 180,000 employees. The shareholders have also agreed to a new style of corporate ma-

agement - the creation of a Management Board and a Supervisory Board. The Supervisory Board's role is to guide the strategy of the new company and to control the way in which the strategy is carried out.

Jérôme Monod (previously Chairman of Lyonnaise des Eaux) was elected Chairman of the Supervisory Board and Gérard Mesrallet, the former President of Compagnie de Suez, was elected as Chairman of the Management Board and Chief Executive Officer. The Management Board is the decision-making and management vehi-

cle of the group. Suez Lyonnaise des Eaux's ambition is to become a world leader in the provision of water infrastructure services. The company will direct most of its financial resources towards the development of its four core businesses - energy, water, waste management and communica-

Suez Lyonnaise des Eaux's coordinates in Jordan are: Regional Office for MENA P.O. Box 941619 Amman 11194 tel: 602 161/9 fax: 602 172 Director for Regional Development: J. Owayshek

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3 FLIGHTS A WEEK

AF 8175	Monday	Wednesday	Saturday
AMMAN	23h55	23h55	23h55
PARIS	05h55 *	05h55 *	05h55 *
AF 8172	Monday	Wednesday	Saturday
PARIS	13h30	13h30	13h30
AMMAN	21h10	21h10	21h10

* Arrival next day, at CDG 2A.

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The Star's TV GUIDE

Programs on JTV from 12-18 July

ENGLISH PROGRAMS

SATURDAY

3:30—Holy Koran
3:35—French Programs
4:00—Neighbors
6:10—French Programs
7:30—News Headlines
7:35—Hangin' with Mr. Cooper
8:00—Magazine Zero One
8:30—Prison
9:10—Time Trax
10:00—News at Ten
10:30—Macgyver
11:15—Feature Film

SUNDAY

3:30—Holy Koran
3:35—French Programs
4:05—America's Home Video
4:30—Energy Express
5:15—American Chart Show
6:00—French Programs
7:00—News in French
7:30—News Headlines
7:35—Fresh Prince of Bel Air
8:00—Cinema, Cinema, Cinema
8:30—National Geographic
9:10—Renegade
10:00—News at Ten
10:30—One West Waikiki
11:15—Sisters

MONDAY

3:30—Holy Koran
3:40—Spirou
4:05—Neighbors
4:30—Deep Water Haven
5:00—Ocean Girl
5:15—Nature By Profession
6:10—French Programs
7:00—News in French
7:30—News Headlines
7:35—Murphy Brown
8:00—The Giant Nile
8:30—Babylon 5
9:10—Highlander



Babylon 5, Monday at 8:30 pm

10:00—News at Ten
10:30—Law and Order
11:15—Homicide

TUESDAY

3:30—Holy Koran
3:35—French Programs
4:00—Super Sport Folie
4:30—Dog House
5:00—Square on TV
5:10—The Album Show
6:10—French Programs
7:00—News in French
7:30—News Headlines
7:35—Coach
8:00—Tilt
8:30—Encounter
9:10—Nature of Things
10:00—News at Ten

WEDNESDAY

3:30—Holy Koran
3:35—French Programs
4:05—Captain Planet
4:30—Spell Binder
5:30—Forests of the World
6:00—French Programs
7:00—News in French
7:30—News Headlines
7:35—Step by Step
8:10—Soldier's Diary
8:30—Challenges (Local talk show)
9:10—Spencer for Hire
10:00—News at Ten
10:25—Land's End

11:00—American Gothic

THURSDAY

3:30—Holy Koran
3:35—French Programs
4:05—Hey Dad
4:30—He Shoots He Scores
5:15—Varieties
6:10—French Programs
7:00—News in French
7:30—News Headlines
7:35—Parenthood
8:00—Cinema, Cinema, Cinema
8:30—Submarines (Doc.)
9:10—Kung Fu
10:00—News at Ten
10:30—Feature Film
11:00—Taratata

FRIDAY

2:00—Holy Koran
2:05—Leo the Lion (Cartoon)
2:30—Cartoons
3:00—French Programs
4:00—Neighbors
4:30—NBA
5:10—French Film
7:00—News in French
7:30—News Headlines
7:35—Family Matters
8:00—The Health Show
8:30—Hawkeye (Drama)
9:10—500 Nations
10:00—News at Ten
10:30—Mini Series
12:00—Feature Film

PROGRAMMES EN FRANÇAIS

SAMEDI

3:30—Dessins animés
Arsène Lupin
6:00—Série policière
Succurs froides
7:00—Le Journal
7:15—Magazine
L'œuf de Colomb

DIMANCHE

3:30—Dessins animés
Arsène Lupin
6:00—Magazine
Faut pas rêver
7:00—Le Journal
7:15—Magazine
Ziva

LUNDI

3:30—Dessins animés
Arsène Lupin
6:00—Documentaire
Félag
7:00—Le Journal
7:15—Magazine scientifique
Cina sur cina

Highlight of the week at the Pleasure Dome

● **Showdown in Little Tokyo:** "Smart, fast-moving martial arts action-adventure." For 400 years, Japan has been home to a secret society of killers dedicated to their own supremacy in the world of crime. Ruled by an ancient, arcane code of honor, the deadly Yakuza have been among the most feared members of Japanese society. Even today, they are immediately recognizable by the stunningly ornate full-body tattoos that cover their bodies, telling the terrifying story of their stature and career in an underworld order that knows no mercy. Now the Yakuza are coming to L.A. But America, they're going to meet their match. Two cops are on their trail. One's an American raised in Japan. He's got the mind and spirit of a samurai, and the body of a human fighting machine. The other is a Japanese-American raised in the San Fernando Valley. He's into malls, pizza and MTV. But he can disarm five gunmen with his bare feet. One's a warrior. One's a wise-ass. But together they've got what it takes to remove some tattoos from Little Tokyo.



Video Releases

We've assembled a collection of powerful movies for you this week:

- **With Honors:** What will happen to Monty when a severe winter storm causes his computer drive to crash and takes with it his senior honors thesis. What begins as a trading-off for necessities becomes a discovery that life's most important lessons are not necessarily learned by the book.
- **Angel Street:** Two police detectives... one a well-educated black, the other a street-smart white. A story of uneasy partnership between two women who work to suppress their hostilities toward each other as well as their taunting peers.
- **Boyfriend From Hell:** He charmed the senioritis of east L.A. Now he's after the seniors down under. 90 mins of laughing with Cheech Marin and Emma Samms.
- **Fair Game:** Yesterday Kate (Cindy Crawford) was a dedicated Miami family attorney. Today she's a moving target of a ruthless group of international embezzlers when she repossesses a valuable ship belonging to one of them as part of a divorce settlement. Sexy. Exciting. And Fun.

Courtesy: "The Pleasure Dome"

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THE STAR'S

WORK

COMPUTING & HIGH TECH

Edited by Zeid Nasser

Computer & IT companies

Welcome to the Star's Workstation, the absolute source for what's hot and what's not in Jordan's IT market. Fax us on 638298 or email us at star@net.com.jo with your news and views.

Wanted: Lively content for Arab Web sites

Jabra Ghneim

Special to The Star
NEW CONCEPTS in content creation have emerged over the past few years, as the Internet came into wide use. The Internet is mainly about content, and we Arabs need to utilize this content revolution to our benefit. Presently their is serious lack of lively content to be enjoyed by the Arab "surfer" or anyone else interested in Arab or Arabic information on the Web.

What is content?

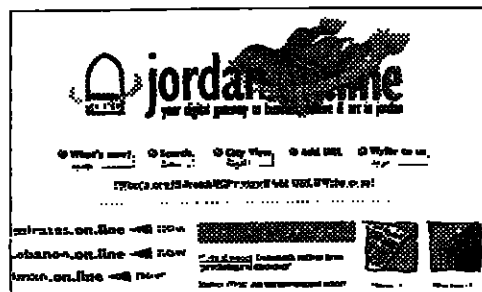
If you read The Star on the Internet, then you are reading an HTML copy of this article. If it has any URLs, you can cross-reference and link to other reflected articles. Those of us addicted to knowledge live by every word that is said or written by good creators everywhere (writers, editors, graphic designers, etc.). Computers and communication technologies made content development, and distribution much faster and accessible to almost everybody.

This is a big business in Europe and the United States. Any generator of media in every kind and form is a "content developer". The advent of the net has made content development a bigger business. The

net also changed the way people read and receive information. Microsoft and Wired in the United States are leaders in the field. They spend millions of dollars every year to deliver innovative, useful and creative content that has the power to lure and attract users to their sites. Slate magazine on the

flashy JavaScripts. It is about lively content that responds to the beat and tone of the net.

When I visit Arab sites on the net all that I see is a flat emulation of Western style Web publishing. No user wants to go to an Arab site and waste precious time to download a GIF image of an outdated news article, or a fancy Arabic



Microsoft site (www.msn.com) is an excellent example of lively content.

Arab Content on the Net

I believe that traditional content providers in the Arab World have reached a stage where they figured out publishing mechanisms pretty well. Still, restrictions on press freedom are preventing them from reaching their ultimate potential. It would be a waste not to utilize the arising advantages of electronic publishing. There is more to the Internet can offer more than fancy graphics and

style, in the language of the regular American citizen.

Correspondingly, I think we need to see Web pages of our own, written by the likes of Youssef Geyshan, and even the famous Nabii & Hisham. These are comic writers or actors, but they present our issues in an easily recognizable form that appeals to the masses.

Another interesting notion is to transfer the weekly newspapers that will have to close down, due to the new press law, on to the Internet where the hand of law cannot reach.

By doing so, these writers will become closer to the heart beat of the "net", with content that is more substantial than any other Arab site.

"This is RJ DAB 1.5 giga hertz!": The technology of digital radio

By Jawad Abbassi

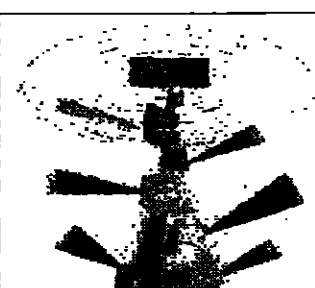
Special to The Star
OUR AGE is, by large, a digital one: our watches and our car displays are digital. We also use our digital telephone exchanges to connect to our digital ISPs to connect to our digital email.

Nevertheless, many "analogue" technologies — continuous variations in voltage that correspond to the signals transmitted — are still alive and kicking. Our phone calls from the phone set to the digital exchange are still, for the most part, analogue.

Furthermore, we still use the digital displays of our radios to tune into FM and AM radio stations and receive their analogue signals.

The newer digital technologies, with their superior quality and reliability, will always squeeze the analogue world harder and harder, and the digital victory seems to be inevitable. In the radio transmission technology front, Digital Radio is reaching a mature stage, leading many to believe it will soon replace traditional analogue AM and FM broadcasting which has been in use ever since the Italian, Marconi, discovered it in the nineteenth century. One of the analogue radio transmission shortcomings is its susceptibility to interference and "multipath" echoes caused by the reflection of signals off buildings and other topographic features. Digital radio, on the other hand, is virtually immune to all and any interference which

results in much clearer reception. Digital Radio transmits and receives sound that has been processed by a technique similar to CD players: It processes it as a stream of On and



Off signals (digits) rather than a continuous variation of voltage. Hence, Digital Radio results in much superior sound quality over analogue radio just as the CDs offered superior sound quality over that of LPs. The system by which digital sound would be broadcast was adopted by the International Telecommunications Union's Radio communications study group (ITU-R) and was called the DAB system (Digital Audio Broadcasting).

In February 1992, the World Administrative Radio Conference (WARC), which negotiates frequency allocations globally, officially designated the L-Band (around 1.5 GHz) as the future worldwide home for digital radio. The DAB technology can be used to transmit Digital Radio using conventional terrestrial broadcasting antenna and satellite based systems. Also, DAB technology

enables transmission of text, data, images and video which makes the future "radio" a multimedia receiver. The receiver will be able to store information so that the consumer can access it at a suitable time. The information is sent encrypted or open along with control signals which tell the receiver how to process the information. Examples of future services are: traffic messages, information about congestion, route selections, travel information, hotel information, free park spaces, petrol stations, navigation and electronic newspapers. Successful Pilot projects of digital Radio have been setup in countries like Sweden, Canada, US and Germany. In addition, companies around the world, like Philips, introduced new-generation receivers that are compatible with DAB. This supply of DAB receivers and the successful pilot projects present an indication that the day is near when digital radio becomes ubiquitous. By then, our local radio station in Amman will digitally send its nice tunes and the station identification will no longer be "this is RJ FM 96.3 megahertz". This is RJ DAB 1.5 gigahertz, broadcasting from Amman!

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INTERFACE

BY ZEID NASSER

Piracy in Jordan, marches on

AFTER THE many discussions, and raging debates on piracy — illegal copying of software — it seems that little has been done to combat this problem in the Jordanian market. Last year, the software development community in Jordan waged a massive war against piracy in the press and through official bodies like the Jordan Computer Society and some Governmental organizations.

This coincided with Jordan's ratification of the General Agreement on Tariffs & Trade (GATT) by which the country had to crack down on copyright violations to conform with international laws on intellectual property rights.

So, let's see what has been achieved so far. Till this day, illegal copying continues in Jordan and piracy lives on as the illegal copies are sold in many shops scattered around Amman.

Although these shops have made a commitment not to copy Jordanian, or Arab, software products as a gesture of support to the local and regional software industries, the practice of copying all other software goes on.

In spite of the fact that everybody agrees that piracy is immoral, most people involved in it prefer to continue enjoying its "hidden benefits". Economic difficulties in the country make it quite difficult for regular home users to actually purchase original copies of entertainment and basic productivity software. If game software is priced at around \$50 in the USA, then, by the time it makes it to Jordan, this same piece is selling for about JD 50. Bearing in mind that the normal buyer of a computer game is a young user, probably with no source of income other than his/her allowance, it becomes quite obvious that even buying one game every month represents a financial load! So, instead, these people can buy a copy for as little as JD 10. Also, they can exchange copies of software with their friends.

Let's move a bit more up-market, to engineering applications, for example, AutoCAD, the engineering design package, sells for under JD 25 in Amman at a private shop, although an original copy would cost something like JD 1,000 and above. Imagine! It only costs about 2.5 percent of the actual price. Now that is amazing.

Also, till this day, almost every computer system sold by a distributor in Jordan comes with already installed Microsoft applications, including Windows 95, Microsoft Word, Excel and others. None of these have been paid for by the buyer! Although the size of the software market in Jordan is relatively small, we can safely say that software publishers lose millions of dollars every year to piracy.

If these publishers think that they can crack down on corporate and governmental users, they can't battle the other huge side of the market: small-size and home users. I would say that as much illegal software is used by this group, if not even more. In 1996, 83 percent of software in use was pirated. There is a serious need for a solution, and in the absence of government enforcement of intellectual property rights, intelligent solutions are required.

Once again, we sound the call to software publishers worldwide: Create lower priced packages for sale in the Middle East, especially entertainment and home-use software.

The idea is to produce cut-down versions of software, with less packaging, manuals or decreased components — maybe even decreased features — and providing these software packages for a lower price than the normal, full package.

By establishing awareness programs, coupled with lower pricing and special incentives, buyers will go for original software.

It is very much like the case of music tapes. In Amman, there is a shop that sells original music tapes, produced under license in Saudi Arabia, at prices only 25 percent higher than copies produced by other large "copying" shops. The result has been a fair degree of success. Why can't the same be applied to software? That's a question that needs to be answered by the publishers.

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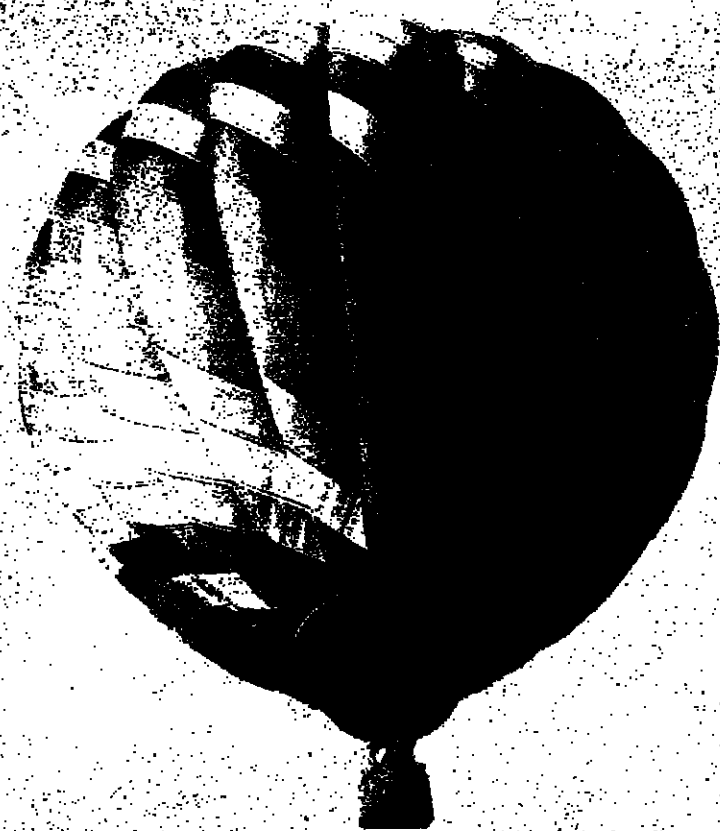
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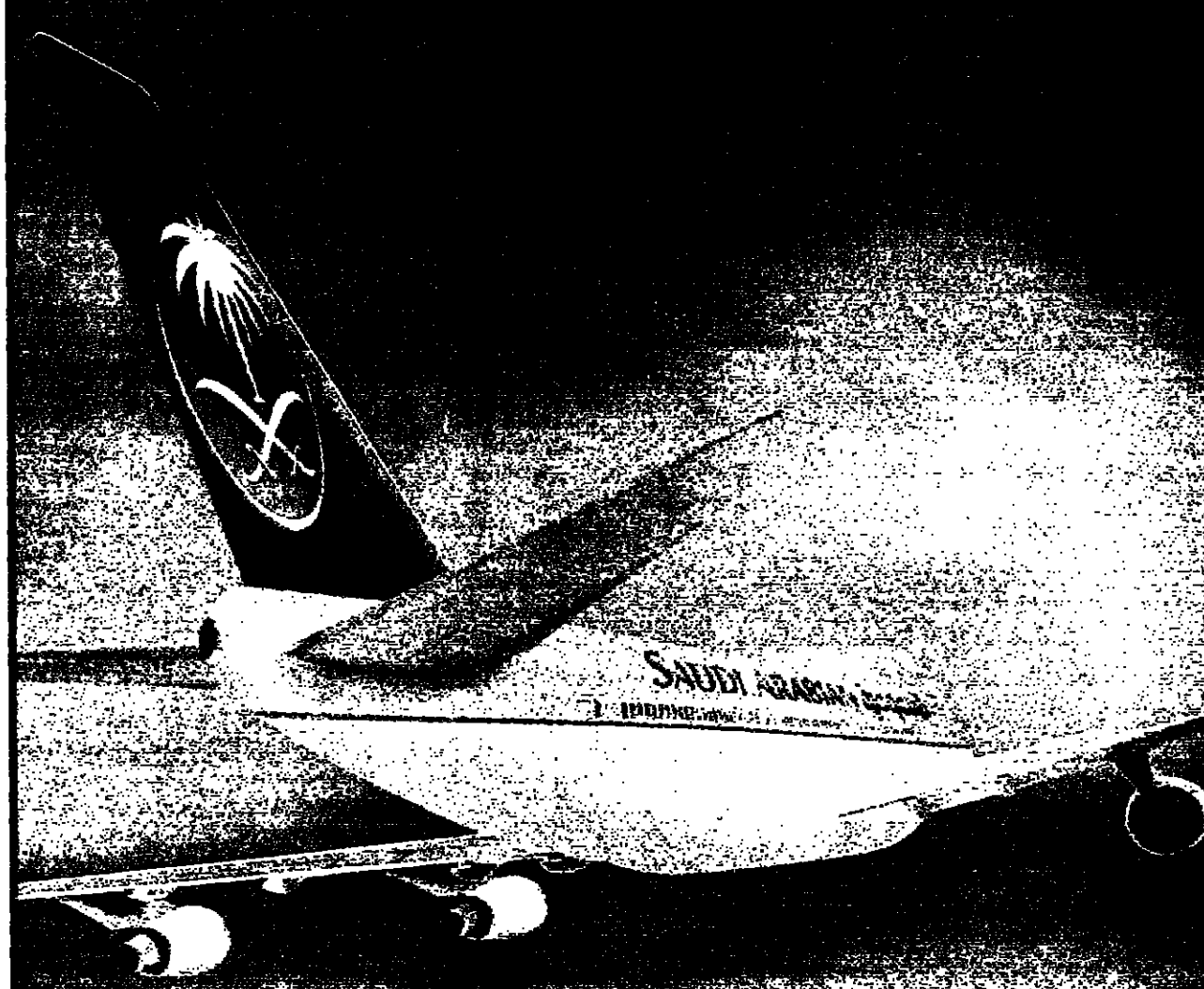


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جميع الخدمات باللغة العربية



Madani
Algeria
frees
leader of
Islamic
party

By Roulia Khalaf
LONDON — Algeria's
army-backed government
released Tuesday
Abdullah Madani, leader of
the banned Islamic Salvation
Front (FIS), in a
move the FIS said would
help resolve Algeria's
five-year conflict.
Madani, whose party
was stripped of an election
victory in 1992
plunging Algeria into
bloody conflict, was
jailed for 12 years in
July 1992 for undermining
the FIS and other Algerian
opposition parties.
He was repeatedly called
for his release and then
radical deputy was more
believed to be held in
Bida, south of Algiers.
Madani's release
comes a week after
Abdelkader Hachani, the
FIS number three, was
freed from prison.

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